THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012 *Volume 20, Number 1*

NEWLY DISCOVERED MACHIN'S MILLS

Featured in this issue:

- More on what is a Colonial Coin
- The "Rat" Halfpenny
- Biography of a Colonial Minter
- Potosí Cobs of 1652
- An Adventure Leaving Boston
- New Machin's Mills
- Coins Stolen from the ANA
- New Slab Service for Colonials?
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Membership questions, address changes, and dues should be sent to Charlie Rohrer at P.O. Box 25, Mountville, PA 17554. Dues are $25-regular (including 1st class mailing of the Newsletter); $10 for junior members (under 18).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Jim Rosen)

As I sit here in front of my computer pecking along, I am reflecting on our club and how fortunate we all are to have the volunteers we have to keep this club viable and one of the best clubs in numismatics. So, with that in mind, the next time we have a get together, as is coming up in Buffalo at the EAC, you just might want to buy a board member a beer just to say thank you for all they do. We are not looking for thanks, but often it's nice to hear it. Too often we take for granted that things happen by themselves, and nature got the *Newsletter* edited, published and mailed and that the articles came from heaven or that our convention just happened to land in Baltimore…by itself with no work. I am mentioning this because our Board has been working very hard on so many issues, and I just can't emphasize how wonderful this board is and how well we are all functioning to try to do the right thing for all of us. Speaking about the Board, elections are coming up and in this *Newsletter* there is information about throwing your name into the ring, as we are all up for re-election in July.

You might have noticed that on our Website there are some new features…like a subject and author index of the *Newsletter* from the Neanderthal days of our club. Ray Williams and Randy Clark deserve all the credit and if you think this was done in a day…Ray is now in divorce proceedings over it (just kidding…but fully understandable). And Lou Jordan wrote a magnificent Primer on Colonial Currency…. a must read. This should certainly spur some currency excitement now that you will all be able to have a good foundation on this subject.

Now to our convention. As I mentioned in the Winter *Newsletter*, our host convention for the 2012 season was to have been Philadelphia, but that show was cancelled and I am happy to say that our new home will be in Baltimore – November 15th thru the 18th. The show is under the ownership of the Whitman Expo and their website www.whitmanexpo.com has all the information you'll need, including hotel reservations, restaurants, hours, location of lectures and more. More information will be forthcoming about our convention but at least you can now plan ahead with dates. BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE, www.colonialcoins.org.

As I am sure you are all aware, the majority of Steve Tannebaum's coins were sold in conjunction with the recent Stack's Americana sale in New York. Although I was not in attendance the event was a huge colonial event with many rarities up on the block. The catalogue is a must for the student of varieties as well as colonial type. I was fortunate to obtain a coin I needed in the Vermont series for my type set. And talking about sales, our club is co-sponsoring a Colonial Sale with Stack's Bowers in Baltimore at our 2012 convention. If we send consignments to Stack's Bowers either as a C4 member or via a C4 member, (call Vicken Yagparian), then we, as a club, will receive some needed monies based on the consignment value. So, let your friends know and if you are thinking about selling, now is the time to send them to Stack's Bowers and help our club.

In the last *Newsletter*, I began to broach the topic of an electronic newsletter; however, it is not as easy as my naive brain thought it was. So for the time being we are going to put that concept on the back burner, not to be discarded but to be re-visited at a later date. With that in mind, we are making a few changes in the way we "remind" you all of your dues payment. In the Fall and Winter edition of each Volume of the *Newsletter*, there is going to be a colored sheet of paper along with a self-addressed envelope reminding us that our dues are now due. As our club members are aging along with our coins, we need a little help in remembering the dues, so here it is. And if that is not enough, you might get a little reminder via email, phone or snail mail from your regional vice president again pushing the envelope about dues.

In this past winter's *Newsletter*, I hope you all had a chance to look at Chris Salmon's Mass Silver Classification of Noe numbers. What I did is to put those sheets in plastic so that I can carry them to shows in a small binder. Not only is it timely, it makes perfect sense and allows for new varieties to be placed without confusion. Thank you Chris for your work and your marvelous book. And talking about books, I hope you all purchased Syd Martin's opus on Rosa Americana Coinage. What a great book. I must take a little credit for finding a small number of typos, but editing it did make me read it letter by letter and let me tell you that this book is great and a must for any colonial collector. Contact Charlie Davis, a C4 member @ 978-468-2933 for information about purchasing this book.

I also want to publically thank Roger Moore for the excellent job he did on the Convention Report for the 17th Annual Convention. I am trying to twist his arm to make this his permanent assignment, something he obviously loves to do.

I am not sure how the Colonial Type and Curency collectors are coming along (anyone get the one "R" in currency?) Anyway, I really want to get this off the ground and I am hopeful that many of you have sent your names and addresses to Syd for inclusion into this *Newsletter*. I would be more than happy to field questions you all may have relating to type collecting. So please, don't be shy, send in your name and contact info and what you are interested in and you all can contact one another and get started just like the NJ and Connecticut nuts have done.

Well I promised you that our *Newsletter* would be just that...news about our club...and I think I have done just that – kept you all abreast of what is going on. We could always use articles from novices and professional collectors alike and I want to take this space to personally thank everyone who makes this club successful, from the Board, to the non-board volunteers, to those who write columns and articles and those who email me with queries. For those going to Buffalo for the EAC, bring winter gear, there is only two seasons in Buffalo (I went to school there) – summer and winter.

Until next time, stay healthy, and continue to enjoy this wonderful hobby of ours.

MACHIN'S MILLS V.25-87C
THE FIRST NEW OBVERSE SINCE THE VLACK PLATE

(John L. [Jack] Howes and Roger S. Siboni)

It has been nearly 40 years since Bob Vlack produced his plates of American-made Counterfeit British Halfpennies more commonly known as Machin's Mills Coinage. Since then, while there has been frequent debate over the years as to whether certain varieties were actually American or British made, whether Thomas Machin and his mill were the source for several of the varieties, and who engraved which pieces. there has not been a new discovery of a Machin's Mills obverse since the plate was published until now.

It was with a healthy dose of skepticism that Jack Howes and I studied an as yet unidentified Machin's-like coin on eBay. The reverse was clearly a Vlack 87C, the most common Machin's reverse die. And while the head type was very familiar in style and appearance, something was not right. Were we looking at just a very late die state of the obverse 19 or 23 with a giant die break (technically referred to as a retained cud) from 10:00 to 6:00? That alone would be a significant find. But no, the head, neck and chest were simply too thin to be a 19 and there was no stop before III ruling out the 23. In fact, that thinner head coupled with legend punctuation ruled out every known marriage with the 87C reverse. Caution until seeing the coin in the metal prevented us from declaring it a new discovery. However, in the end, that was what it was. 25 being the next available unassigned obverse designation, we tentatively assigned it 25-87C. The coin weighs 116.6 grains, has a vertical diameter of 27.6mm and a horizontal diameter of 28.0mm. It is coin turn at approximately 183°.

As indicated, the die break runs cleanly from 10:00 to 6:00 and gives the coin a two tier appearance that is reminiscent of the Vermont Ryder 29 (shown on the following page). And while the dramatic die break certainly suggests a reason why it has taken

nearly 40 years to surface, like the Ryder 29, the lower plateau is fully struck up and protected by the higher plateau of the coin, which exhibits both striking weakness and wear. It would be convenient to say that the break reflects a shattered die and the coin was a "once and done" variety. But two things prevent us from immediately jumping to this conclusion. First, the Ryder 29 exhibits virtually the same kind of break and yet it is only an R-5, suggesting an extant population of perhaps 50 examples today. Using a conservative survival rate of 1%, that would imply approximately 5,000 struck examples were coaxed out of a similarly broken die. The second reason is the general wear of the raised portion of the obverse die compared to the protected lower portion of the obverse die. The protected area has strong, well-defined, bold legend letters while the S in GEORGIVS in the raised part of the die looks like it has seen more use, as does the comparative mail on George's chest. Part of this may be explained by wear, with the lower portion protected by the upper portion in this regard. But it does not seem to explain the die deterioration factor. We therefore believe that more than one example was struck and another example may well turn up in a junk box, eBay lot or as a misattributed 19 or 23-87C.

As to when it was struck, a great place to start is Gary Trudgen's "Illogical and Curious Vermont *Britannia Copper*" article in the August 2007 *Colonial Newsletter*, sequential page number 3157. In the epilogue, Trudgen follows the progression of the 87C reverse die from the Vlack 20-87C through the last state of the die reflected in the Machin's Mills-produced Vermont Ryder 13. In his epilogue, he chronicles 9 varieties with the 87C reverse. This new use would make 10, almost rivaling the Maris workhorse New Jersey J reverse die.

In reviewing Trudgen's analysis, the present example does seem to have been struck somewhere between the 21-87C and 23-87C, helping account for its obverse likeness to the latter coin. The reverse break above Britannia's head in both the preceding varieties does not appear quite so visible on the new 25-87C because of a die cavity right at that point of the break. But right above and below the cavity, a tiny remnant of the break appears visible. The left legend as well as the left-most folds in Britannia's dress appear closer in strike to the 21-87C than the 23-87C, but this may be a result of the small section of the die being lower than the rest while still being tightly secured in the press, resulting in more pressure being exerted on the reverse in that area.

It is truly a delight to be part of a new discovery (as several other eBay observers noticed this new variety as well), but discovering the first new Machin's Mills obverse in nearly a half century is an enormous thrill no matter how it comes, especially when the recent trend has been to delist Vlack varieties.

SURVEY OF KNOWN RINGO RAT COUNTERFEIT HALFPENCE

(Roger A. Moore, MD)

INTRODUCTION:

Some 10,000 different varieties of British and Irish counterfeit halfpence are estimated to exist (1), and active attempts to categorize these coins into manageable subgroups called Families (2, 3, 4, 5) is ongoing. Most of the counterfeit copper coins with an obverse containing the legend GEORGIVS III (or II) REX with the image of King George III (or II) as a central device and a reverse with the image of Britannia as a central device and the legend BRITANNIA were manufactured in Britain, but some of these counterfeit coins are also known to have been made in North America. Of the North American made products, the Machin's Mills coinage is the most widely known example. (6) In addition it has been proposed that some copper counterfeit halfpence were minted in Britain with the specific purpose of being shipped to North America for use (7), although this speculation is not universally accepted. (8) In any case, in order to make a cogent argument for a specific coin having been made in American, rather than Britain, documentation of a minting site and minters is needed. Understandably this information is frequently absent due the clandestine nature of counterfeiting operations. Past supposition that "crudely made" equated with "American made" has been questioned (9) since this bias has not been properly supported with rigorous documentation. There are groups of coins that have been proposed as having originated in North America, other than the Machin's Mills products (10, 11), but these proposals remain speculation.

One variety of copper counterfeit halfpence that has not yet been categorized into a specific counterfeit Family was studied by Mike Ringo. Due to its very crude and distinctive appearance and due to a fold in Britannia's lap that looks like a rat crawling up her leg, the name for this variety became the "Rat." My understanding is that this name was arrived at by Mike in communion with other colonial coin enthusiasts after liberal quantities of libation. However, the lot description in the sale of Mike Ringo's counterfeits (12) attributes the "Rat" name to G. C. Kent in his book, *British Metallic Coins and Tradesmen's Tokens With Their Value From 1600-1912*. (13) In viewing this description of the Rat Halfpenny by Mr. Kent, it is found in the section of his book titled "Regal Coins" and under the subsection called "George II." It is plain that this specific section deals with the Young Head Regal coinages between the dates 1729 and 1739.

The actual statement by Mr. Kent is:

> *Rat Halfpenny. A curious coincidence of the foregoing coins and the young head farthings is, that the drapery on the right leg of Britannia is in the form of a* ***rat crawling on the left leg,*** *the ribs of the rodent being plainly visible. On the obverse, by covering up the face with the right*

thumb, a ***cat*** *is plainly discernable on the alert. The former coincidence may be known to a few collectors, but for the latter I think we are indebted to a Mr. Frank Hulme, for calling my attention to it."*

There are both Regal and non-Regal halfpence within the Young Head group of coppers that show this odd characteristic. An example of a 1730 Regal halfpenny showing the rat-like figure in Britannia's lap is provided in Figure 1 and a 1738 non-Regal halfpenny is shown in Figure 2 exhibiting the rat-like fold of Britannia's dress. Close up photographs of the rat image for both the 1730 Regal halfpenny and the 1738 non-Regal halfpenny are shown in Figure 3.

Figure 1 – Regal Halfpenny of 1730 showing rat-like figure in Britannia's lap.

Figure 2 – Non- Regal Halfpenny of 1738 showing rat-like figure in Britannia's lap.

Figure 3 – Closeup of the rat-like figure in Britannia's lap in a 1730 Regal halfpenny (top figure) and in a 1738 non-Regal halfpenny (bottom figure).

However, there is no mention of a 1777 copper halfpenny with this finding. Therefore, in order to pay proper tribute to the originator of this designation for the 1777 variety, I have taken the literary liberty of changing the name of the crude 1777 counterfeit copper to the "Ringo Rat." The purpose of this paper is to provide of survey of all known examples of this unusual variety.

RINGO RAT DESCRIPTION:

GENERAL: The obverse central device is King George III based on the legend, but in an atypical head left position. The head left position in the British regal coinage is typically reserved for King George II. Regal coinage for King George II halfpence occurred during the years 1727 through 1760. (14) Regal coinage for King George III halfpence occurred between 1770 and 1775 with a lapse followed by a different series between 1790 and 1807. (14) The date on the Ringo Rat is 1777 which places the coin as a definite non-Regal, since it is not a date during which Regal halfpence were made. Though the head left positioning of the central device of King George III is confusing,

the coin cannot be labeled a "date mule" since the obverse legend indicates King George III and the date on the reverse occurred during King George III's reign.

OBVERSE: The obverse has King George III facing to the left with King George's face being exceptionally crude and distinctive. One could say the portrait is almost a caricature of George Washington. In any case the eye is heavily outlined, the lips are pursed, the nose is blunted and the jaw is prominent. King George's forehead is large and curved. There is a single laurel leaf at the top of the forehead, and the head ribbons are exceptionally long. The legends look to have been made with punches rather than being hand carved into the dies. This is supported by both "G"s and both "E"s looking the same. The two "R" letters are not the same, but this is due to the tails being significantly different. Adding hand carved tails to "P" letters to make "R" letters is frequently found in counterfeit coppers. The higher-grade examples also show the letters "O," second "G," and "S" all having been punched into the die twice. The first punctuation mark after the letter "S" is surrounded by an indentation that indicates that the mark was punched too deeply and impressed the foundation of the punch into the die. The most unusual feature of the legend is the added punctuation mark before the ordinals, which is not found in Regal coins and is extremely rare in counterfeit coppers.

REVERSE: The reverse also shows an exceptionally crude Britannia with an almost cartoonish face. The hands are disproportionally large and the key feature from which the name of the variety derives is that the fold in the dress over Britannia's right leg looks like a rat. (See Figure 4)

Figure 4 – Closeup of rat-like figure in Britannia's dress fold in the 1777 Ringo Rat halfpenny.

In addition the shield is small and oblong. The sprig is diminutive and sparse. There is an unusual triangle between Britannia's staff and her left leg but what it represents is unknown. In regard to the legends, both of the "N" letters and both of the "I" letters look to be made with the same punches. The remaining letters look fairly crude and may have been hand carved into the dies. The date is also crude and, as previously indicated, is 1777 – a non-Regal date – with the numbers leaning significantly to the right.

THE COINS:

1. August/Ringo/Martin specimen

Source: ex Mike Ringo collection. Appeared in Stack's Americana Auction sale, January 2008, lot 5836; the lot description was: ***"1777 contemporary imitation halfpenny muling. George II English obverse, George III-era English reverse. The "Rat Halfpenny." Nearly Extremely Fine.*** *108.8 grains. A special type among the counterfeit halfpence of George II, one that bears an imitative date more appropriate to George III and one of the most unusual busts in the series. Mike referred to this as the "Rat Halfpenny," citing an earlier reference to "C.G. Kent, p. 14," which likely refers to the little known British Metallic Coins and Tradesmen's Tokens With Their Value From 1600-1912 by G.C. Kent. Mike also noted that a low grade piece in the ANS Collection from these dies is illustrated on plates by Al Hoch, amending his previous belief that this piece was, in fact, unique. The surfaces are a beautiful glossy medium brown that seem finer than Mike's grade of "crude VF." There is evidence of slight bounce double striking on both sides. The distinctive blunt-nosed portrait on the obverse undoubtedly gave this odd variety its name. The reverse type is comical, with a funny little smile on Britannia, and an olive branch hand that interrupts the legend between BRIT and AN. The date is crude but easily read, with no doubt or question that it is 1777. An impressive coin, struck from very rare dies, and a future prize in an advanced collection.*

From the Michael K. Ringo Collection. Purchased from Richard August. A Ringo-inscribed envelope accompanies this lot. Assigned number 7703MKR."

Metrological data: weight – 108.8 grains; diameter – 27.4 mm; axis – coin turn.

Notes: Originally found at a small coin show in Connecticut by Dick August about 30-35 years ago and traded to Mike Ringo for some significant coins due to Ringo`s fascination with the coin. Currently the finest known of the variety.

2. Newman specimen

Source: Bought as part of a large collection of counterfeit half pence and farthings.

Metrological data: Unknown.

Notes: Presently at the Saint Louis Newman Numismatic Museum but not available for evaluation. There seems to be a planchet cutter line on the obverse between K-11 and K-3. The coin shows significant wear on both sides and/or an asymmetric strike. The presence of porosity could indicate the coin might have spent time underground.

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3. Varney specimen

Source: Obtained from Bob Shaha and thought to be from New York State.

Metrological data: weight – 122.2 grains; diameter – 27.0 mm; axis – coin turn.

Notes: There seems to be a plancet cutter line on the obverse between K-2 and K-5. This is the only example that is holed but the hole is placed in a spot that makes it unlikely that it was worn as a medallion. The obverse is in significantly better condition than the reverse and the heavy corrosion on the reverse could indicate some time spent underground or simply a light reverse strike that reveals the roughness of the original planchet. There is a planchet break located under King George's bust and extending into the bust about 10 mm. The edge of the coin also has what appears to be rudimentary reeding present on approximately half of the rim, between K-6 and K-10 as well as between K-3 and K-5:30.

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4. Bowser specimen

Source: Obtained from an eBay seller from Ontario, Canada about 12 years ago. It was in a group lot with a few other counterfeit halfpence and a token or two. The owner believes that it was a ground find somewhere in North America, probably in southeastern Canada.

Metrological data: weight – 113 grains, diameter – 27 mm, axis – coin turn.

Notes: Roughness and porosity points to coin having spent time in the ground.

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5. Bell specimen

Source: Metal detected by the owner in Schenectady, New York at the site of the original stockade, on the river where many 1700's buildings once existed. The specific coordinates supplied by the owner were: 42°48'58.33"N - 73°56'49.61"W.

Metrological data: Weight – 128.1 grains, diameter - 27 mm.

Notes: Excellent condition for having been interred for some 200 years. Like the Newman specimen, loss of facial detail in King George and in Britannia could be due to an asymmetric strike when minting.

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6. Kesse/Moore specimen

Source: The coin originated on eBay from an upstate New York seller and was sold to Bruce Kesse who later sold it to the author.

Metrological data: weight – 140.5 grains; diameter – 27.4 mm; axis – coin turn.

Notes: There seems to be a planchet cutter line on the reverse between K-1 and K-4. The general porosity would indicate that this coin might have spent some time underground.

CONCLUSIONS:

The Ringo Rat is a struck counterfeit halfpenny, which combines the unusual head left positioning of King George III's image on the coins obverse, with the non-regal date of 1777 on the reverse. The variety does not fit easily into any specific known Family of counterfeit halfpence. Therefore, this variety falls into the category of being an "Orphan." As expected for a counterfeit copper, the weighs and diameters of the coins for which measurements were performed were in general significantly less than what would be expected for Regal halfpence. Of interest, the condition of the coins points to all of them, except for the finest known, having possibly spent time in the ground. The Bell specimen was documented to have been found while metal detecting in a known 1700's settlement site. Five of the coins have origins pointing to northern New York and southern Canada while the origins of the other one is not defined.

Could these coins have been of North American origin? In exploring the Baby Head counterfeit halfpenny, Byron Weston speculated that the Baby Head counterfeit halfpenny was made by a blacksmith, William Gilfoil, in the early 1770's at Fort Crown Point New York. (11) Could the Ringo Rat halfpenny be a Gilfoil coin also? The Gilfoil coppers were made from hand cut planchets and minted using a hammered die technique. In contrast, the Ringo Rat halfpenny was made with a planchet that had been cut out of a copper sheet using a planchet cutter, as indicated by the planchet cutter marks on several of the coins. In addition, it would seem that the Ringo Rat halfpenny was minted using a machine, since the details on each coin are quite strong in spite of the presence of wear and environmental damage. Finally, the Ringo Rat date of 1777 does not correspond with an early 1770's date during the time that Gilfoil coppers were made. Therefore, the Ringo Rat halfpenny cannot be proposed as an alternate coinage for the Gilfoil designation. Since most of the Ringo Rat coins seem to trace back to Eastern North America, and particularly the Northern New York and Southern Canadian regions, it is not a stretch of the imagination to conceive that these coins were made in North America. There were rumored to be numerous small counterfeiting operations in New York, Vermont and even Montreal. Once again the difficulty lies in documenting these operations and ascribing a specific coinage to them. The lack of a Ringo Rat halfpenny in any known large British accumulations indirectly supports the proposition that this coinage was made in North America, although an alternative explanation could be that it was produced in Britain for exclusive use in America. (15)

No matter what the actual reality, the Ringo Rat coinage is fascinating and with time and perhaps the availability of advanced metallic analytic techniques, its origin will be better elucidated. At this time there are only 6 examples of this variety known. The possibility of an additional "low grade specimen" (12) in the holdings of the American Numismatic Society has been refuted. (16) However, there is every expectation that others will literally surface because of the increased numbers of metal detecting finds being made daily. If anyone has another example of the Ringo Rat halfpenny, please contact the author by email at Rogermoore435@yahoo.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The sharing of images and information by the present owners of the Ringo Rat coins – Sydney F. Martin, Eric P. Newman, Robert L. Bowser, Mark Varney and Carl A. Bell – is greatly appreciated. The active input and review by the owners of these coins, especially Eric P. Newman, must also be stressed. The editing by Bob L. Bowser, Byron K. Weston and Sydney F. Martin should also be recognized.

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WILLIAM COLEY: A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF A COLONIAL MINTER

(Marcus Mayhugh)

William Coley was a colonial silversmith deeply involved in the early coining attempts of the Vermont republic, as well as being connected to the coining activities that occurred at Machin's Mills in New York, an enterprise that illegally produced counterfeit British Halfpence. In colonial circles, Coley has traditionally been credited with creating some the Vermont Landscape varieties, along with the crudely rendered Vermont "Baby Head" coins.[1] Despite the fact that that he is credited with these popular dies, and was an original member of the Machin Indenture (he equally shared with Rueben Harmon the production of coinage at Rupert),[2] very little has been written or is known about Coley. For example, William Coley is listed only once in the entire CNL index and that is from a non-numismatic source. However, a recently reprinted Masonic lodge book, *The Grand Lodge of Free And Accepted Masons of the State of Vermont 1794-1846,* while brief in scope, provides a great deal of information on the colonial coiner.

It appears from the lodge book that William Coley (sometimes spelled Cooley) was an influential member of the early Vermont masons, and rated a short biography in the lodge records. The lodge book was printed in 1879; it is assumed that the information was gathered from surviving family members, and from the actual lodge records as well. While this information should always be taken with a healthy grain of salt, it was accumulated a mere 36 years after his death and may have been obtained from a family member who actually knew him.

To begin, it should be noted that the lodge records attest to the skill and craftsmanship of William Coley by crediting him with creating the Seal of the North Star lodge. In a spot other than the location of the Coley biography we are informed:

> ....April 4th, 1793, when it was Voted, the treasurer, Brother Huntington, deliver to Brother William Coley eighteen dollars for stock to make necessary jewels for the use of the North Star Lodge, also that Brother Wm. Coley execute a seal of copper for use of the Lodge, to cost 18 shillings."

The seal, which was probably the first in Vermont, was a plain circle enclosing the words "*North Star Lodge Verm.*" The device in the centre was a circle upon which rested the square and compasses.[3]

Several bits of information can be gleaned from the above statement: (1) that Coley was still living in Vermont in 1793, and (2) it can be surmised that he was still involved in some form of the silversmith business, having on hand the necessary tools and equipment to produce such a device as the lodge seal. It is also interesting that both dollars and shillings are used as terms of money.

Coley's biography, according to the lodge records, lists his birth date as December 2, 1758. It is claimed that his father was also a silversmith and of such skill that he produced knee buckles for the King of England. The biography claims the family moved to New York City around 1764, with the father operating a hotel on Front Street. This seems a strange career move for an artisan skilled enough to have produced knee buckles for the King of England. We do know, however, that William Coley Sr. was operating as a silversmith by 1766, for an ad in *Weekly Postboy* of September 11, 1766 announces the dissolution of the partnership of William and Simeon Coley.[4] Simeon Coley quite likely was another member of the family engaged in the silversmith business. This particular Simeon Coley received some small notoriety for violating the non-Importation Agreement between New York merchants and was eventually forced to leave town. Somewhat confusingly, the above-mentioned William Coley is often cited, especially, in silversmith books, as being the same William Coley of Vermont fame. Thanks to the Lodge records this can be ruled out as the Vermont silversmith would have only been eight years old in 1766. The Masonic records also inform us the William Coley learned his die cutting skills from his father after the American Revolution.[5] Since the Revolution ended in 1783, very close to the date of the first Landscape coinage, one might wonder if the elder Coley had anything to do with the cutting of the 1785 Vermont dies – an intriguing thought since it is commonly believed the 1785 Landscapes were cut in New York City. The 1785 landscapes differ from those of 1786 thought to have been cut in Vermont by William Coley. Carlotto points out "A great job of copying was done to make these two so similar yet very different. These differences suggest separate makers and probably another location of manufacture."[6]

According to the Vermont Masonic Records, William Coley is credited with having served seven years in the Revolution in the cavalry, primarily under Gen. Greene.[7] There is little doubt that Coley served in the American Revolution although he probably never attained the rank of "Colonel," a title given to him by Breen and others. A Bill for the relief of William Coley was granted in 1838. His pension amounted to eighty dollars per year.[8] An Orange county Militia (Land Bounty Rights) - Second Regiment, lists a William Coley on its roster.[9]

The author of the lodge "Records" claims he does not know when Coley moved to Rupert, but that the Lodge records first make note of William Coley on November 2, 1786. This is rather significant in that it is the first date Coley is positively shown to be living in Vermont. Up to this point Coley's Vermont residence has been speculative. It would be safe to assume that William Coley had been living there for some time in 1786 as it is hardly likely that he was asked by, and joined the Masons on the day of his arrival. This also would strongly suggest Coley did not remove from Vermont in 1786 as is supposed by others. If he did, it would have been in the final two months of the year, and why would he join the Vermont Masons if he were planning on moving back to New York.

The Grand Lodge biography does make a reference to the coining of Vermont coppers by Coley. It says "Various facts tend to prove that he was the man who cut the dies from which the Vermont coppers of 1785-1788 were struck. It is a fact he resided in

Rupert when the coppers were made by Rueben Harmon, and that Mr. Harmon had as partners gentlemen from New York City, who probably knew Coley." This is a very strange way of stating things! Both statements are prefaced by the acknowledgment that the facts are: (1) that Coley cut the dies, and (2) that he resided in Rupert when this was accomplished. It is the only time in the biography that statements about Coley are not just given but are proclaimed as factual. Everything else is just written as if were assumed to be known. It is almost as if someone doubted these statements. Oh, would it be nice to know what those facts were! The only other comments about coining are that "Harmon and Coley joined a group in Ulster, NY for the avowed purpose of coining copper."

The biography goes on to tell us that he was a Sheriff of Bennington County in 1798-99, and that he was a Colonel in the Old State Militia. Finally, we know why he was referred to as Colonel. That he was Sheriff is factual, as Coley faced impeachment charges for receiving excessive fees for his services. The charges were dismissed in 1799.[10]

The biography informs us that William Coley left Vermont in 1807, and moved to New York, eventually settling in Otselic where he remained for the rest of his life. Again, the biography proves factual, for William Coley and his son can be found in the records, *History of Otselic*, Chenango County.[11]

Lastly, and perhaps most interestingly, the biography provides a glimpse of Coley. It is stated, "that he was a small man, dark complexioned, quick and nervous like a Frenchman. Having received a superior education, speaking French like a native, city bred, and having always associated with men of culture, he was well calculated to be an addition and ornament to any society. He frequently said that when the time had arrived for him to die, he wished to go like the going out of a candle. He was in the kitchen, one day, helping the ladies, by chopping mince meat; someone spoke to him; he did not reply, for the spirit of William Coley had fled while he was sitting in the chair." This occurred November 30, 1843.[12]

While nothing really spectacular leaps out of the *Records of the Grand Lodge of Free And Accepted Masons Of The State of Vermont*, it does provide some excellent background on the life of a little-known colonial coiner. As more and more information comes to light we may someday be able to glean important details about the coppers we collect.

ENDNOTES

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[3] Records Of The Grand Lodge Of Free And Accepted Masons Of The State of Vermont : From 1794-1846. Originally published Burlington, VT. The Free Press Association 1879. p. 18. *(The author has

tried, unsuccessfully, to locate an image of this seal, quite possibly because he is not a Mason.)

[4] "The Arts and Crafts in New York 1726-1776: Advertisements and News Items From New York City Newspapers." Printed for the New York Historical Society, 1938.

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CONGRATULATIONS ARNOLD!

Miniman receives NJNS medal

The latest recipient of the New Jersey Numismatic Society's Charles F. Nettleship medal is Arnold Miniman for contributions to the organization. Michael S. Fey, Charles F. Nettleship committee chair and past recipient of the Nettleship medal, presented the medal to Miniman during the society's Nov. 21 meeting.

Arnold Miniman is the 20th recipient of the award named in honor of the society's founder. Miniman joined the NJNS in 1995. He served NJNS as vice president in 2004 and president in 2005. Miniman is also a member of the American Numismatic Society, Colonial Coin Collectors Club and Garden State Numismatic Association.

The bronze award's obverse portrays the likeness of a New Jersey Colonial copper coin with the engraving, "New Jersey Numismatic Society / Organized 1933."

The reverse is bordered by a wreath of leaves and torch, and an open scroll, on which is engraved "2011 / Nettleship / Award / to / Arnold Miniman."

Nettleship was the founding father of the New Jersey Numismatic Society in October 1933. In 1982, he donated $50 to the society and a service award was established in his name.

For more information, please contact Donald Bennett at (732) 236-9699 or dbbennett1@comcast.net.

The Nettleship medal was presented to Arnold Miniman for his contributions to NJNS.

Taken from Numismatic News, 3 January 2012, page 108

FIRST QUARTER AUCTION RECAPS

(John Agre)

The first quarter of 2012 has, like every past year dating back to the late 19th century, included its fair share of interesting colonial items in auctions of different shapes and sizes. Some were presented by major firms (like Heritage and Stack's-Bowers), others in scattered smaller auctions and, of course, some in that venue specifically designed to surface rare Machin's Mills varieties (and also sell cars, Lladro Figurines and used clothing): Ebay.

And I was there for pretty much all of them, poring through colonial coins at lot viewing from New York to California, bidding live and in person in auction rooms at all hours, and placing my head merely inches from the computer screen to study the details on some rare item (or possibly Chinese counterfeit) being sold on the internet.

And from all of that activity, I have tried to extract nuggets of information which explain seemingly odd bidding results, tell interesting stories or reveal important market trends which are either totally random, or sufficiently significant that they will influence all of our behavior going forward.

Starting with the expensive colonials being sold in the year's first auction, Heritage's FUN Show Platinum Night I sale in early January, with a couple of notable results as follows:

- Lot #3003, a very high grade, golden brown but not especially well struck St. Pats Farthing sold for $8,050, which is less than I expected for a coin that looked like that.

- Lot #3005, a 1776 Continental Dollar EG FECIT variety in a PCGS MS64 holder and traced to Stack's Charles Jay Collection realized what to me was a surprisingly low $126,500 all-in, as that was a price well less than offerings of like-graded examples of this issue at auctions in recent years. And while this was a coin a purist would appreciate, since it appeared to be totally original and had a lovely and ancient coin-gray patina, it apparently did not do much for the guys who like their coins with more flash, possibly explaining why this coin received no bids on the floor at all.

- Lot #3006, a second example of this issue was less original looking, much flashier, housed in a generous NGC MS67 holder, and realized a very robust $546,250. That's more than 3 times more than this same coin brought when it was sold raw in the Ford sale in 2003.

- Which turned out not to be an outlier result, as lot #3007, an extremely sharp and heavily conserved Fugio 11-X in an NGC MS66 RB holder from that same October 2003 Ford I auction, did just as well, also selling for about 3x times the price it did back then.

• But some crusty original coins did well too, like lot #3009, a new-to-the-market Church Penny with 'D' variety in a PCGS XF45+ holder selling for a strong $115,000 all-in. This same piece had been offered at the ANA show last August for $100K by long time dealer Julian Leidman, and about $30,000 less than that in the months leading up to this auction (which sounds like a good deal in retrospect).

• Lot #3013, the common Washington Liberty and Security Penny in a PCGS MS63 RB holder was notable for the fact that it was in a Platinum Night session (intended for coins valued at $10,000 and up) for no reason whatsoever, since that is about a $2,500 coin (which is, not coincidentally, about what it brought here).

The next day the "regular" (i.e. less than 10K) colonials were sold in a Heritage afternoon auction, featuring a run of fairly average looking Massachusetts silver coins all bringing fairly average prices. Followed by lots #3970 and #3971, a pair of Massachusetts Half Cents in identical PCGS MS63 holders that sold for markedly different prices of $2,415 and $4,255 respectively, for reasons that I cannot explain at all.

Followed by the sheer entertainment provided by the auction of the John W. Adams Collection of French and Indian War Medals, a lovely and important offering of some 150 or so pieces all beautifully illustrated, expertly cataloged by John Kraljevich, suitably lauded by the good folks at Heritage and then auctioned in a session in which each and every single lot (not most, mind you, ALL) were purchased by the same mysterious internet bidder #7102. Let's just all be thankful that something like this did not happen at the Ford sales while all of us just sat there unable to buy anything. That would have been a bummer.

And then we had a nice long rest until the quarter's most significant event, the Stack's-Bowers Americana Auction in New York anchored by the "SLT Collection", the decades long labor of love of beloved dealer, collector and friend Steve Tanenbaum featuring his superb collection of Connecticut and New Jersey Coppers, including pieces from common to über-rare, with pedigrees of all shapes and sizes like these (to name just a few): The Garrett Collection, the "Pocono Hoard", the John J. Ford Collection, an outdoor flea market in 1993, The Norweb Collection, Susan and Richard Sisti's 1986 Casar Sale (I have no idea what this was, but it sounded cool) and some place called "Asia Mail Coins", which suggests that Steve bought his coins anywhere (and *everywhere!*) he could find examples that he needed.

Numismatic oddities and curiosities were well-represented too, like lot #7067, a 1785 Connecticut M. 3.1-L on which someone, apparently long ago, inexplicably wrote CANCEL very neatly on the upper obverse in what appears to be Palatino all-caps 4 point font. Or lot #7469, a 1788 Connecticut Miller D reverse brockage which looked suspiciously like a mudpie. Juxtaposed against lot #7454, an absolutely lovely double struck example of a 1788 Connecticut M.15.1-L.1 with two bold dates.

Perhaps the most accurate way to characterize the session overall would be 'staggering,' since that describes both how your author was moving (after waking up

wicked early to catch the first morning train to New York, viewing lots all day long and then bidding until 12:30am), and many of the prices realized (as in they seemed really strong to me) in a well-attended session in which all of the usual suspects were present.

In an effort to present a balanced view, however, I should mention that some collectors and dealers thought prices on some of the rarest pieces were on the weak side, since different examples of the same varieties had sold for more (sometimes much more) in recent years. In this thinly traded field, however, prices seem to be dictated more by 'who needs it' than by rarity ratings or the strength or weakness of the market. Meaning that if two well-heeled collectors need a particular variety then it is sure to go the moon. But if one of them already has it, the same coin might sell for, oh, I don't know, 50% less. I have heard similar assessments of other series as it relates to the PCGS Registry and other buyers, so this phenomenon is certainly not unique to Connecticut Coppers or colonial 'coindom' in general. In any case, a few of the notable results were as follows:

• Lot #7085, an R-6+ 1785 Connecticut 6.4-F.5 in nice VF brought $12,650 and thus signaled to me that prices in this session would be strong, since this same piece brought 'just' $8,625 in the Ford sale in 2005. Granted that was 7 years ago, but that had been a very strong session, and I actually expected this piece (and others) to sell for less here than they did there. Which was my first wrong prediction of the evening.

• Lot #7128, a 1786 Connecticut Draped Bust Left (a sleeper Redbook type, since most 1786 varieties have a Mailed Bust portrait) from the Norweb Collection with choice golden brown color did not go unnoticed, bringing $9,775.

• Lot #7132, an R-7 Muttonhead 1.2-mm in crusty F15 was the first really big price of the evening at $109,250, and was, unless I am forgetting something else, the most expensive coin of the night.

• Lot #7237, one of a number of very choice Connecticut error coins listed throughout the auction brought a very fair $4,600 to a specialist.

• Lot #7310, a 1787 Connecticut 33.29-s.1 described as "Rarity-7+, One of Three Known" in lovely, unflawed VF with good color, brought what seemed like a bargain $11,500, which was partly explained by the collector seated next to me who noted that he was actually aware of 6(!) different examples of this issue. Still, this might be the finest known of a type for which lesser specimens have realized ~$45,000 and ~$25,000 in recent years.

• Lot #7422, a choice UNC 1788 M.3-B.1 (and one of the absolute highlights of this or any Connecticut Copper sale) sold for $48,875 to a well-known dealer who just missed out on this piece when it last sold decades ago. Which gives you some idea how frequently some of these desirable pieces trade, and how fleeting the opportunity to acquire them can be. So while I can say that the price realized was a bit more than I expected, I can certainly understand it.

• Lot #7440, the 1788 Connecticut Mailed Bust Left ex-Eliasberg which was technically UNC but with an off-center strike, a moderately distracting line in the middle of the obverse and some unusual iridescent color indicative of an old cleaning *still* realized $19,550 all-in. That was considerably higher than our estimate, and another demonstration of the stunning power of the Eliasberg pedigree.

• Lot #7503, the very rare 1786 New Jersey Maris 9-G brought $48,875 to a serious collector who paid significantly less than we expected for this one. Frankly I thought it might sell for much more, but with nearly every specialist buyer either in the room or aware of this session, I guess that is the current market.

• Lot #7640, the rare 1785 Vermont Immune Columbia in close to basal state consigned by a collector friend realized $4,887.50.

• Lot #7751, the best Washington North Wales with 4 Stars your author has ever seen and also notable for its entertaining pedigree listed as "ex-Cokayne (not cocaine) Collection" brought a worthy $25,875.

• And let's not forget the Mudpie coin which sold for $287.50 to one of the vast number of different successful bidders in this session – a trend which says something good about this market, and should be heartening to all colonial collectors (except those looking for bargains at auction).

Next I was off to California for the February 2nd Heritage Long Beach sale where I witnessed these results:

• Lot #3003, a big, bold Pine Tree Shilling in a PCGS AU50 holder that was really not very original, or nice, brought $10,925, which (at least at the time) seemed like a lot of money for that coin.

• Same for lot #3027, a Bar Copper in a PCGS AU55 holder with evidence of an old cleaning and some surface marks brought a super strong $17,250.

• Also notable in this session was the long run of Vermont Coppers which had been placed in the "Final Session" (for coins values at approximately $1,500 and under) but then withdrawn before the auction began (presumably because the consignor did not want them there).

Then there was a notable colonial sold on Ebay on March 1st, this is a Noe-16 Pine Tree Shilling in a PCGS "Genuine" holder for what PCGS deemed to be "Edge Damage" which realized $3,350 as a "Buy-it-Now," This was especially interesting to me since the seller in this auction acquired this piece, also on Ebay, but at that time raw and with a bad photo, for $1,675 not even 30 days earlier on February 5th. For those scoring at home, that was exactly half as much.

The next event would be the Heritage Auction in New York on March 8th, where those same Vermont Coppers that had been withdrawn in Long Beach appeared again, but this time in the "Signature" session. Unfortunately, the change of venue was not especially helpful, as most were reserved at too-strong prices and 7 of the 13 pieces went unsold.

Other coins did better, though, including lot #3006, a rare 1724 Rosa Americana pattern Martin 5-H deemed ungradable by PCGS due to an old cleaning, which still realized a strong $9,775. Also strong was lot #3024, a 1785 Nova Constellatio Crosby 2-B variety housed in an NGC AU58 holder (but looking waaaaay better than most of the ones I see), which brought a price commensurate with its quality at $2,760.

Which brings us to the last major auction of the quarter, Stack's-Bowers session in Baltimore on March 21st, featuring the historically-minded collection of C4 member Jim Jones (sold in an atypical sequence by date irrespective of series or type) followed by other notable consignments. The results bounced around from very strong to surprisingly weak as follows:

- Lot #1008, a pleasant but hardly perfect (as it had been flattened, and had a natural flaw at the rim) 1652 Pine Tree Shilling, Noe-1 variety in a PCGS XF45 holder realized what to me was a shockingly high $12,650. That very same coin sold for "just" $8,050 when last sold at Heritage in 2010 – a price that I personally think was more in line with its quality and condition. Of course, someone might conclude that based on the AU Noe-1 described earlier in this recap, this sale might represent the "current levels" for a piece that looks like this.

- Lot #1009, a nicely centered but not especially original 1652 Pine Tree Shilling, Small Planchet, Noe-17 variety in a VF35 holder was every bit as strong, selling for $7,475. That is much more than most comparable VF's have brought in recent auctions.

- On the other hand, lot #1011, a Maryland Shilling in an XF40 holder with some distracting business in the obverse field brought a low $23,000 all-in with no bids from a number of the major dealers.

- But we were back up again with lot #1039, a very original 1776 Continental Dollar CURENCY variety in an old PCGS AU58 holder that went very strong in my opinion at $71,875 all-in. That piece had a superb, original skin which evidently trumped what appeared to be some heavy contact marks at the upper obverse.

- Then back down to lot #1048, a Betts-608 Treaty of Versailles medal in silver with pretty toning which was, IMO, the steal of the session at just $1,380. I would not have been surprised to see that piece bring 5 or 10 times that much.

- Lot #1055, a very sharp and well made 1786 Vermont VERMONTENSIUM Ryder-7 variety graded AU53 by PCGS also brought what I thought was a lowish (given the quality) $7,188.

• And then a minor grading comparison took place with lot #1119, a pleasant rarity-1 1787 Connecticut Draped Bust Left in an NGC AU55 holder which failed to meet a reserve of $700. Which I mentally contrasted with earlier lot #1057, an incrementally more pleasing rarity-1 1787 Connecticut Draped Bust Left in a PCGS XF45 holder which realized $1,265. I suspect those results would have been quite different if both were sold raw or in holders of the same grading company.

• Lot #1124, a lovely 1787 Machin's Mills V.17-87B boldly struck on a broad planchet and housed in a PCGS AU55 holder realized a robust $11,500 in a pitched battle between the guy writing this article and a serious specialist collector. IMHO that piece had the best combination of sharpness and golden brown color I've ever seen on any Machin's, though of course I might be biased.

• Which brings us to lot #4005, the extremely rare, seldom seen, very crude and definitely controversial New Hampshire Copper plated in Crosby and pedigreed to Stickney, Ellsworth and Garrett which sold for $172,500 to a mystery buyer after some widespread bidding activity on the floor, phones and internet. While some specialists questioned where and when this issue was actually produced, one thing is certain: This particular example has the longest and oldest provenance of any known specimen, which gives it at least a little more credibility than any other. I think.

Whatever you think of that particular item, we can all agree that it was an interesting end to a quarter in which many pieces that had been off the market for decades changed hands, including some long-known to the numismatic community, and others which were, apparently, straight out of the woodwork – with many generating results which as often as not defied logical explanation and, if anything, underscored the random and unpredictable nature of numismatic auctions in which good pieces sometimes go cheap, lesser examples are expensive, or a new bidder can just show up and buy everything.

SPANISH-AMERICAN CORNER

CONNECTING THE DOTS ON POTOSÍ COBS CURIOUS EIGHT REALES SUBTYPES OF 1652

(Michael S. Shutty, Jr.)

For years I have struggled to understand the eight reales cobs of Potosí dated 1652. In particular, I have been baffled by the wide variety of dot configurations that adorn these cobs. Why so many dots? This is a mystery I would like to invite C4 readers to explore with me.

Let me start by providing some context. Peruvian cobs were widely used during the early colonial period in North America. In fact, many New England and Willow Tree shillings are likely the product of melted and re-assayed Spanish colonial cobs. As Phillip Mossman described in *Money of the American Colonies and Confederation*, it was widely noticed among the English colonists that many cobs from Potosí were debased. Malfeasance at the South American mint during the 1640s had run rampant, and world traders learned to avoid these cobs, derided as "Peruvians." (Figure 1)

Figure 1. Debased 1640s Potosí Cob (obverse). The dark surfaces reflect debasement and lack of accountability at Potosí. This resulted in creditability problems for Spain in the world market – even the English colonists in North America avoided these easily soiled "Peruvians." This cob is attributed to assayer Pedro Trevino from his "PR" monogram located left of the Hapsburg Shield.

A furious Phillip IV of Spain ordered a full investigation of the Potosí mint. As a result, several mint officials were jailed and two others garroted. In a royal decree dated December 22, 1650, the mint at Potosí was ordered to abandon the Hapsburg Shield (obverse) and Cross of Jerusalem (reverse) design that had been minted since 1574. In its place, the arms of Castile and Leon (obverse) and Pillars of Hercules (reverse) were resurrected from earlier designs dating back to the Mexican coinage of the 1530s. It was further decreed that the design provide clear identifiers (date, mint, and assayer) so that debased coins could be directly linked to the responsible officials. (Figure 2)

Figuer 2. Old Style Shield and Cross Cob from the *Capitana* (obverse and reverse). This cob, dated (16)52, is one of the last Shield and Cross types produced at Potosí. The obverse is defined by the placement of the King's name.

The evolution of this redesign process is clearly evident in the coinage of 1652. No less than eight distinct types of the new design were produced during this single year. Since the urgency to ship cobs to Spain did not allow for the luxury of producing patterns to be contemplated and decided upon, each of the eight types were pressed into circulation. Most collectors of colonial coins are content to have a single specimen; hence, few numismatists have explored this series in detail.

Torrey McLean suggested a logical sequence of design types for the 1652 eight reales cobs of Potosí in a brief monograph published in conjunction with the Ponterio and Associates' auction sale of the "La Capitana" treasure (April 10, 1999). He identified each type with Roman numerals (I through VIII) based on the Pillars of Hercules reverse designs. Only two types of obverse designs were used during 1652 (labeled A and B) with the Cross of Jerusalem (B) replacing the Shield of Castile and Leon (A) late in the year. Typically, reverses I through VII were mated to obverse A (with a few rare exceptions: V/B, VII/B, and VIII/A); consequently, the VIII/B design was favored and produced with few changes from late 1652 until the last cob was struck at Potosí in 1773!

Most Potosí transitional cobs have been salvaged from three shipwrecks that date proximally to 1652: *Jesus Maria de la Limpia Concepcion* (popularly known as the "Capitana"), sunk off Ecuador in 1654; *Nuestra Senora de las Maravillas* ("Maravillas"), sunk near the Bahamas in 1656; and *San Miguel el Arcangel* (called the "Jupiter wreck"), sunk after hitting a Florida sandbar off the modern-day town of Jupiter in 1659. Only a few transitional cobs have surfaced from other shipwrecks.

The first significant influx of eight reales transitional cobs occurred with the aforementioned auction of the *Capitana* treasure in 1999; this remains the largest group

of transitional cobs (49 specimens) to be offered in a single sale. Consequently, this auction offers our best contemporaneous sample of the rarity of these cobs – particularly since they all came from the same shipwreck. The *Ponterio* auction catalog offered 1562 eight reales for sale; only 49 (3%) of these were transitional cobs. If one excludes the Type VIII cobs (as many numismatists consider this design type to be "post-transitional"), then only 20 eight reales transitional cobs remain (1.2%) in the *Capitana* sale.

Clearly, 1652 transitional cobs of McLean types I-VII are rare. The *Capitana* specimens were distributed by types as follows: Type I and Type III (1 specimen each); Type IV (13 specimens); Type V (3 specimens); Type VII (2 specimens); Type VIII (29 specimens). These data are biased in that the salvers kept approximately 600 cobs, and the Ecuadorian Government received half of the total treasure (about 2500 cobs).

I decided to broaden the *Capitana* sample by examining all photographed specimens of 1652 cobs within the last 20 years. I searched auction records, fixed-price lists, and guidebooks. My goal was to explore the relative rarity of each type but also to make sense of those pesky dots that I will describe momentarily. The total sample for this study included 101 transitional cobs (I-VII), excluding post-transitional (VIII) designs. These cobs were distributed by type as follows: Type I (9 specimens), Type II (2 specimens), Type III (9 specimens), Type IV (51 specimens), Type V (13 specimens), Type VI (1 specimen), Type VII (16 specimens). These data generally reflect the *Capitana* figures, suggesting that the Type IV specimens account for nearly half of the transitional cobs (i.e., types I through VII).

McLean and others have been aware of numerous subtypes of transitional cobs, but no one has described them. The various configurations of dots define these subtypes in nearly all cases. McLean incorporated the presence or absence of a single large dot as the distinguishing feature for Type II and Type III reverses, but he ignored all others. My review of the sample specimens suggests that these dots were not punched capriciously. They followed a few established patterns. They tell us something, but their coded message remains a mystery.

There has been speculation. Dr. Alan Craig, author of *Spanish Colonial Silver Coins in the Florida Collection*, has suggested that the dots represent "secret" die engravers' marks, even suggesting that the number of dots might be significant for revealing the status or grade of the die engraver. Despite the lack of evidence, this is not an unreasonable hypothesis. As you can imagine, accountability was at a premium in Potosí during the transition period. Alternatively, I wonder if each die was uniquely marked in a not so secret manner in order to keep track of them.

In contrast, some believe that the dots represent attempts to "balance" the overall design. This latter explanation is consistent with the supposed evolution of the transitional designs, as symmetry appeared to be an important consideration. Daniel Sedwick, co-author of *The Practical Book of Cobs*, has likened the post-transitional

design (Type VIII) to a data grid, arranged in a "tic-tac-toe" format that imposes balance and symmetry yet includes all the necessary information in duplicate.

In any case, I will now provide a review of each major type as defined by Torrey McLean. Within each type, I will discuss the varieties found within the study sample. McLean Type I shows two lines of data in a 2x3 (rows by columns) pattern. The first row names Phillip IV (or Felipe IV in Latin) with the denomination in the middle position as follows: "F-8-IIII." The motto "PL-VSVL-TRA" was spelled out in the second row; this motto ("plus ultra") refers to the Pillars of Hercules and translates to "more beyond" – underscoring Spain's claim to the New World beyond the Straits of Gibraltar. The denomination in the first row is flanked by three dots: one above and one at each side. The placement of the dots is balanced and encloses the denomination. In addition, two dots are placed left and right along the inner border above the first line of data. All nine specimens in this study appear to be from the same die as determined by the spacing of the dots. (Figure 3)

Figure 3. McLean Type I from the *HMS Association* (obverse and reverse). Two lines of data with three dots flanking the denomination characterize this first transitional design. Two pairs of dots fill the space above the data grid on the left and right inner borders. Note that the "A" of "PL-VSVL-TRA" overlaps with the line border. The obverse is common to all transitional cobs and shows the arms of Castile. This specimen has a Brazilian counter-stamp that obliterates the crown atop the shield.

McLean Types II and III are characterized by the addition of a third line of data such that the 3x3 tic-tac-toe format begins to take shape. The third line includes the assayer mark for Antonio de Ergueta in duplicate as follows: "E - - E." Also, the spacing of the motto in the second line was changed to "PL-VSVL-TRA." McLean Types II and Type III are differentiated by the absence or presence of a single dot in the blank space located between two assayer's marks on the third line of data for Type II and Type III respectively. Emilio Paoletti, author of *8 Reales Cobs of Potosí*, has suggested that McLean Type II and Type III could be combined and a *single type* be defined by the addition of the third row of data. (Figure 4)

Figure 4. McLean Type III (reverse). The addition of a third line of data with two assayer's marks and a large central dot defines this type. Note the three dots flanking the denomination is similar to the Type I cobs, but one dot replaces two above the data grid on the left and right. Type II cobs do not have the center dot in the third row of data and have two pairs of dots above the data grid similar to Type I cobs.

Furthermore, it appears that Type III cobs come in at least two die variations. The first variety has three dots about the denomination in a configuration similar to Type I cobs. The second variety has a single dot centered over the denomination. Note that the two specimens for Type II cobs (no dot on the third line) have three dots about the denomination. Since each of these three dies is clearly marked by a unique configuration of dots, it raises the possibility that the dot punch was used to individualize each die early on; however, as we shall see with Type IV cobs, a period of experimentation using the dot punch was just beginning.

The McLean Type IV is the most common transitional series cob and is defined by the addition of a second denomination "8" in the middle of the third line of data as follows: "E - 8 - E." This temporarily solved the dilemma of how to utilize this space. Nonetheless, the use of the dot punch increased, as there are at least ten different configurations of dots on Type IV cobs. In particular, most configurations involve use of the dot punch to frame the upper and/or lower denomination.

I use a two-step process to describe the location of these dots. First, I enumerate how many dots (if any) for the upper and lower denomination respectively; and second, I describe whether the dots are centered (C) above the "8" or are placed at the upper or lower corners (UC or LC) of the "8." For example, seven cobs evidenced one dot centered above the upper denomination and two dots at the upper corners of the lower denomination. I would designate this configuration with the following coding shorthand: 1(C)x2(UC). In contrast to the dot configurations found for Type I, Type II, and one die of Type III, I found no three-dot arrangements flanking either the upper or lower "8." Finally, another use of the dot punch emerges on Type IV cobs – namely, the addition of

two dots added to the third line of data. These two dots can be found on either the outside or inside (next to the pillars) of the assayer's marks.

Using this coding shorthand, McLean Type IV cobs produced the following subtype tally in order of frequency encountered: eleven specimens (two dies) of 0x2(UC); nine (two dies) of 2(UC)x2(UC); seven of 1(C)x2(UC); five of 1(C)x0; five of 2(UC)x0; five (two dies) of 0x0; two of 4(UC & LC)x0; and one of 2(LC)x2(UC). Only the 0x0 subtype evidenced variations in the placement of dots on the third line of data (i.e., inside versus outside the assayer's marks); all other subtypes show dots outside the assayer's marks on the third line. I was unable to judge six Type IV cobs due to poor strike and/or corrosion. (Figures 5 and 6)

Figure 5. McLean Type IV (reverse). This is one of the best-known transitional cobs, as it has been plated in many numismatic references including the *Standard Catalog of World Coins* published by Krause. This cob is described as 0x2(UC) and represents the most common subtype. Well-struck cobs were often holed and worn as ornaments in Spanish America. Note the dots flanking the outside of the third row of data.

Figure 6. McLean Type IV from the *Capitana* (reverse). The configuration of dots is unusual, as only one specimen was found in this study. This specimen is designated as 2(LC)x2(UC). As with many Type IV specimens, dots have been added at the beginning and end of the third line of data (outside of the assayer's marks).

One can only speculate why these combinations and not others were used, as it is tempting to suggest some kind of order to the arrangements. All of the dies are individually marked by a unique configuration of dots except for three configurations that are represented by two dies apiece. Is this an accounting method to uniquely identify each die? Do the configurations reflect signatures of different diesinkers? Certainly the dots were carefully placed such that balance and symmetry was considered, as each dot is either centered or placed in duplicate with one at each corner of the denomination. In addition, if no dots were placed about the denomination, then dots were added to the third line of data.

The McLean Type V cobs are defined by the addition of the last two digits of the date placed in the middle of the third line of data replacing the second (or lower) denomination as follows: "E – 52 – E." This type evidences six dot subtypes and follows similar patterns found for the Type IV cobs; therefore, the same coding shorthand can be employed for describing them. The subtype tally in order of frequency encountered is as follows: seven specimens (two dies) of 2(UC)x1(C); two of 1(C)x1(C); one each of 0x0, 0x1(C), 1(C)x0, and 2(UC)x0. Clearly, the first subtype is by far the most common; it is represented by two dies that are differentiated by the spacing of the motto in the second line: "PLVS-VL-TRA" versus the typical "PLV-SVL-TRA." Is this simply a spacing error? In addition, both of these dies have two dots flanking the beginning and end of the third line of data whereas all others do not. (Figure 7)

Figure 7. McLean Type V from the *Capitana* (reverse). This is the most common dot configuration coded as 2(UC)x1(C). This type is defined by the addition of the last two digits of the date in the central part of the third line. Dots have been placed at the beginning and end of the third line and the motto "PLV-SVL-TRA" is evenly spaced.

The next two McLean Types (VI and VII) are characterized by multiple changes to the design. The tic-tac-toe arrangement is solidified by the addition of two horizontal lines that distinctly separate the three rows of data. In addition, the "F - 8 - IIII" in the top row is modified to include a mintmark and assayer mark as follows: "P - 8 - E." Finally, the monogram "HP" was added to the field above the denomination and just below the crown. Several researchers have considered this monogram to be erroneous (or at least poorly executed) since the initials of Phillip IV are inverted (i.e., HP versus PH).

McLean Type VI maintains the same third line of data (with the assayer mark duplicated) as found in the previous Types II through V. On the other hand, Type VII changes the lower right assayer mark to a mintmark as follows: "E - 52 - P." This latter revision balances the data grid with two mintmarks and two assayer marks, each on opposing corners.

There is an interesting reverse die anomaly illustrated in Ken Bressett's book, *Milestone Coins*, wherein the denomination on the top line of data is missing altogether

and replaced with a dot! This is most likely an error, as the denomination had been an essential part of the design even before the transitional period. Given the sweeping changes that characterize McLean Types VI and VII, it raises the question of whether Type VI is also an erroneous die as evidenced by its extreme rarity (only one specimen known).

Perhaps due to the lack of space imposed by adding the monogram and horizontal lines, I have identified only three dot sub-types for McLean Type VII. Two dies differ in the size of last digit of the date in the third line of data (a large versus small "2"); a third die has dots in the third row of data as before. Four Type VII cobs could not be definitively attributed due to flat spots caused by poor strike. (Figure 8)

Figure 8. McLean Type VII (reverse). Several changes can been seen on this cob including the addition of lines and the botched monogram "HP" instead of "PH." The "F" and "IIII" have been replaced in the first line with "P" and "E" respectively for the mint and assayer. This die can be identified as the "small 2" variety. It takes some imagination to discern the "P" in the lower right corner of the data grid; in contrast, the elusive Type VI cobs have a third assayer's mark in this position similar to previous Types II-V.

Finally, I have a few comments about the McLean Type VIII or the post-transitional design. This design is characterized by modification of the monogram to read PH; in addition, the digits one and six were added to either side of the monogram. Several dot configurations (all relatively common) were observed: for example, no dots or a single dot separating the digits from King's initials, single dots flanking the outside of the date numerals, or a dot placed above the King's initials. Many more dies were used for each of these configurations – more study is needed to identify the dies used for Type VIII cobs. (Figure 9)

Figure 9. Post-transition Design or Type VIII (obverse and reverse). The final pillar and waves design satisfied the Royal decree by providing two dates, two assayer's marks, and two mintmarks on the reverse in a tic-tac-toe data grid. This specimen shows no dots about the first two digits of the date and the King's initials. The reverse shows the cross motif that was adapted. This final type continued to be used with only minor variations until the last cob was produced at Potosí in 1773.

And so the investigation continues, as I try to connect the dots. I expect that the number of new reverse dies will increase once the remaining *Capitana* cobs are studied. Unpublished data by Ecuadorian numismatist Roberto Mastalir (personal communication) has suggested that more reverse die varieties exist in the government cache – many of which are represented by a single specimen! For numismatists that enjoy the challenge, the 1652 transitional cobs of Potosí offer a unique opportunity to venture beyond the McLean types, as the evolution of the Pillars of Hercules design has a layer of complexity that still eludes us. There is a mystery to be solved here!

In closing, I should mention that none of this really mattered to the American colonists. For them, the tarnished reputation of the Potosí mint lingered for many years afterwards; Phillip Mossman notes that "Peru pieces of eight" were viewed as less valuable than those from Mexico as late as 1704 – fifty years after the great transition at Potosí (*Money*, p. 50).

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Attribution Guide for 1652 Potosí 8 Reales Transitional Series by McLean Reverse Type (I – VII) and Die ($^{1, 2, \cdots}$).

Type I: Two lines of data above waves. Two dots above first line of data on left and right.

- **Die I[1]:** Three dots flank denomination located Center (C), left, and right.

Type II: Three lines of data above waves. Two assayer's marks on third line with blank space in center. Two dots above first line of data on left and right.

- **Die II[1]:** Three dots flank denomination;

Type III: Three lines of data as above. Two assayer marks on third line with dot in Center. One dot above first line of data on left and right.

- **Die III[1]:** Three dots flank denomination.
- **Die III[2]:** One dot above denomination.

Type IV: Three lines of data as above. Denomination on first & third lines in center position.

Key: Number of dots for upper "8" X Number of dots for lower "8" described as "centered above" (C) or at the "upper or lower corners" (UC or LC) of "8."

- **Die IV[1]:** 0 x 0 w/single dot inside of assayer's marks (next to pillars) on third line.
- **Die IV[2]:** 0 x 0 w/single dot outside of assayer's marks on third line.
- **Die IV[3]:** 0 x 2(UC) w/lower "8" resting on wave.
- **Die IV[4]:** 0 x 2(UC) w/lower "8" clearly above wave.
- **Die IV[5]:** 1(C) x 0.
- **Die IV[6]:** 1(C) x 2(UC).
- **Die IV[7]:** 2(UC) x 0.
- **Die IV[8]:** 2(UC) x 2 (UC) w/upper pair of dots far apart; left lower dot higher than right.
- **Die IV[9]:** 2(UC) x 2(UC) w/upper pair of dots close; right lower dot higher than left.
- **Die IV[10]:** 2(LC) x 2 (UC).
- **Die IV[11]:** 4(UC & LC) x 0.

Type V: Three lines of data as above. Last two digits of date on third line in center position.

Key: Same as above for Type IV except "lower" dots flank "52."

- **Die V[1]:** 0 x 0.
- **Die V[2]:** 0 x 1(C).
- **Die V[3]:** 1(C)x0.
- **Die V[4]:** 1(C) x 1(C).
- **Die V[5]:** 2(UC) x 0
- **Die V[6]:** 2(UC) x 1(C) w/motto spaced "PLV-SVL-TRA" on second line.
- **Die V[7]:** 2(UC) x 1(C) w/motto spaced "PLVS-VL-TRA" on second line.

Type VI: Three lines of data as above. Monogram "HP" above first line. Three assayer's marks.

- **Die VI[1]:** Two assayer marks appear in third line at left and right.

Type VII: Three lines of data as above. Monogram "HP" above first line. Two assayer's marks: one on the first line & one on the third line.

- **Die VII[1]:** Small "2" resting high on wave on third line.
- **Die VII[2]:** Large "2" (equal in size to the "5") on third line.
- **Die VII[3]:** Dots located at outside left and right of third line.
- **Die VII[4]:** Dot in center position on first line instead of denomination.

THE FRENCH COLONIES CORNER

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE 1640 COUNTERMARKED DOUZAINS: AN EXPERIMENT IN CREATIVE FINANCING

(Jeff Rock)

The French Colonies coinage is one of the more confusing in the colonial series. The language barrier for official documents and reference books and the odd denominations (to English speakers at least) have combined to make the entire area difficult for Americans to understand and collect. A big step forward was taken with Robert Vlack's *An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas*, which was published by C4 in 2004. Bob collected this series for three decades, and he shared that knowledge with the rest of the community in this book, the first detailed look at the French coinage since Walter Breen's *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* (published in 1988, the French Colonies section in that work derived from an unpublished manuscript Breen had completed nearly two decades earlier).[1]

The first French Colonies issue – and arguably the first coinage specifically made for mainland North America (predating the New England shillings by a dozen years) were the 1640 countermarks that were applied to earlier coins, officially raising the value of those coins. The countermark was the French *fleur-de-lys* in an oval border, and there are many distinctly different styles of those countermarks (an area yet to be studied in detail), both regal and counterfeit. This *fleur-de-lys* punch was applied to *billon* coins, the majority from earlier French rulers – but similar looking coins from other countries (including England, the Papal states, and the Spanish Netherlands) are also found as host coins for this countermark. These earlier *douzains* – often quite worn after decades (and sometimes centuries!) in circulation – had an ostensible value of 12 *deniers* (the name "*douzain*" clearly similar to the French word for twelve and the English word "dozen") and circulated widely; the *denier* itself had ceased being a circulating coin in France and was more of a money of account – in the same way that a "mill" is technically 1/1000 of a US dollar, or 1/10 of a cent; this denomination was never issued in coin form, but it was used as a money of account in the early days of the nation (and later in the 20th century to figure state sales taxes). That 12 *denier* value was significantly higher than the bullion value of the piece – although when struck these had the appearance of being silver, *billon* is actually a mix of copper, silver and tin, with the silver content for this series ranging from a high of just 24% to a low of just under 20%. This alloy has been known since ancient times, and various ancient mints, especially those under Roman rule, are known to have debased their finer silver coinage and substituted *billon* in its place.

The simple reason for this, of course, is money. If the coin had less silver in it, it cost less to produce. If it could be circulated at the same value, then the difference between metal content and face value was pure profit to the Emperor or, in the French

case, the King. In France that was taken a step or two or three further. When these *billon* issues were first struck they contained such a small amount of silver that the Crown probably made somewhere around 50% profit (after the cost of the other metals, smelting and refining, making planchets, striking coins and getting them into circulation across a rather large country) – so each 12 *deniers* coin yielded an immediate profit of roughly 6 *deniers* to whatever King struck them – free money, if you will, perhaps proof of the Divine Right for the King to rule since he created something from nothing! But in 1640, King Louis XIII – perpetually in need of money (though not nearly as much as his son, Louis XIV who fought numerous wars and started the mammoth building project at Versailles) – hit on a way to squeeze even more profit from previously struck *billon* coins.

These older *billon douzains* were called in by an *Edict* of June, 1640, for the purpose of countermarking and revaluation, the countermarked coins sanctioned for circulation in North America, both mainland and island territories, stretching from Canada down to New Orleans and parts of the Caribbean (though given the quantity known in France, they must have stayed in circulation there as well). These countermarked coins officially had their value raised from 12 *deniers* to 15 *deniers*. To ensure that the earlier *billon douzains* would, in fact, be countermarked, King Louis XIII used both a carrot and a stick. The carrot was that of the additional 3 *deniers* in "value" created by the countermark, he would keep 2 *deniers*, the remaining *denier* going to the person who delivered the host coins to the mint(s). The stick was that any *billon* issues NOT delivered within two months of the Edict could be confiscated, with the entire value then reverting to the King. Not a bad approach actually – those who owned *billon douzains* could make a small profit on their coins (far more than the metal itself was worth), or they could lose them completely if they did not take the King up on his generous offer.[2]

Figure 1. *A typical douzain that would have been in circulation in France during 1640. This is an earlier issue of Henri II dated 1550. The present specimen is not countermarked, and could theoretically have been subject to seizure under the 1640 Edict of Louis XIII.*

Figure 2. *An early douzain showing a regal 1640 countermark of the fleur-de-lys in an oval (here seen at the upper left quadrant of the reverse shield). This is a very early undertype, being a 1461 douzain of Louis XI (Vlack 1c). Note how the countermark causes a flattened area directly opposite; these douzains are very thin and little pressure was needed to apply the mark.*

Of course, it goes without saying, that some people saw the matter quite differently. Instead of making just a *denier* profit on each douzain, they could just as easily make triple that amount. How? Simply by not turning in the coins, making their own *fleur-de-lys* punch, and counterstamping the coins themselves – then, once the countermarked pieces were already in circulation, they could simply pass their own coins at the higher value without fear of discovery. This was an easy way to make a profit – unlike creating actual counterfeit coins, which would require dies, a press, planchets and run a risk of discovery and punishment, all that was needed here was a single punch (which could easily be hidden or destroyed if need be) and a hammer. While no study has yet been done on real vs. counterfeit punches, there are some that are quite crude and obviously not something that would have been created at any royal mint. Given the condition of some of the coins it may well prove impossible to ascertain which marks are regal and which are not – but that doesn't really matter too much, because it already creates quite a few distinct overarching types within this series. In general, you could conceivably have the eight following major groupings for the 1640 countermarks:

- Genuine French *billon* coin, countermarked by official *fleur-de-lys* punch.
- Counterfeit French *billon* coin, countermarked by official *fleur-de-lys* punch.
- Genuine French *billon* coin, countermarked by counterfeit *fleur-de-lys* punch.
- Counterfeit French *billon* coin, countermarked by counterfeit *fleur-de-lys* punch.
- Genuine non-French official coin, countermarked by official *fleur-de-lys* punch.

- Counterfeit non-French official coin, countermarked by official *fleur-de-lys* punch.
- Genuine non-French official coin, countermarked by counterfeit *fleur-de-lys* punch.
- Counterfeit non-French official coin, countermarked by counterfeit *fleur-de-lys* punch.

And that is just the list of MAIN categories possible for the undertypes in general! Vlack lists the coinage of 15 different rulers used as undertypes (three listed as unreported but all of which have examples now known), and another 10 or so undertypes have been added to that list since it was published. Clearly each coin would only have 4 possibilities with the above list as a guide – a coin was either French or it was not (though this is slightly muddled by the fact that there were non-official French coins issued by other French royals in their own family-owned areas). Of those 25-odd general rulers, most are represented by more than one distinct coinage type used as host coins – the later rulers having far more types struck and thus available for use as host coins. One can get really crazy and break this down even further since most of these types have both dates and mintmarks, which would swell the list of possible host coin undertypes since you could collect not just one from every ruler, or one from every coinage type issued by that ruler, but by date and mint of each coinage type issued by each ruler. And, of course, each date and mintmark could have more than one variety known (i.e. more than one pair of dies used to strike the coinage of a distinct type)...

If one were to pursue this series to the point of individual die varieties for each coinage type of each ruler with each possible variation of genuine/counterfeit coins and countermarks, the resulting collection would easily number many thousands (perhaps as many as 10,000) – and you thought Connecticut coppers were a confusing series with just 360-odd varieties!

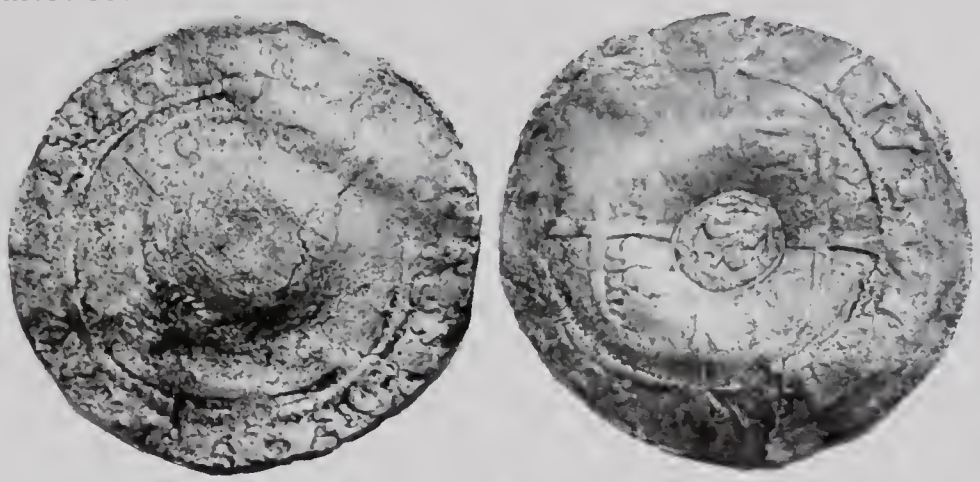


Figure 3. *A genuine, non-French coin with a (probable) genuine countermark. The host coin here is actually a British Groat of Henry VIII from the 1594-7 period (Third Issue, York mint). This type is listed as Vlack 1-1, with perhaps just two examples known – clearly the similarity in size, as well as design (both this and many billon issues feature a shield and a legend around the periphery on both sides) allowed an occasional foreign coin to slip by and receive a countermark.*

Figure 4. *A genuine billon host coin, this a douzain of Charles IX dated 1574 (Vlack 1h), but with an obvious counterfeit countermark which is ill-shaped and punched in with far too much force. Still, the mark would have allowed it to pass at the higher value.*

Figure 5. *A clearly counterfeit douzain – not only is it struck in copper instead of billon, with somewhat crude, handcut letters, it purports to be an issue of Henri IIII, who ruled from 1590-1610 – yet it clearly has a date of 1351! There is also a counterfeit countermark visible to the left of the shield on the obverse. A coin like this had no silver at all and would have cost just a denier or two to produce, and if successfully circulated at the higher 15 denier level (or later at an even higher value) would have yielded a great profit.*

There is no official record of just how many earlier *billon douzains* were countermarked, or how many mints did so (there were upwards of 20 mints scattered around France, as well as the main mint in Paris – given the sheer volume it is likely that many, if not all, French mints countermarked *douzains*, which would clearly increase the number of "official" countermark punch styles). The number countermarked was probably in the range of 75-100 million (or more) pieces, considering the known mintage of some of the *billon* issues of earlier rulers; the number of counterfeit and unofficial counterstamps would certainly add to that figure, though it appears that those were done in far smaller numbers. Curiously, these counterfeit countermarked coins (counterfeit host and/or counterfeit mark) did not even need to circulate individually to be successful

– the vast majority of *billon* issues were traded in large quantities, sewn in cloth sacks of 4,000 coins (hypothetically equal to 200 French *livres*) and used by merchants to make larger payments to each other – much like U.S. Bust Half Dollars and the later Morgan and Peace dollars spent most of their lives in mint or bank-sewn bags, used more as a commodity between banks than a circulating currency. These bags of *douzains* were an early attempt at "commoditization," bundling assets together for their supposed security of value; however the unopened and uninspected bags often contained counterfeits and underweight pieces. Much like the attempt to do so in the US housing and mortgage markets, it left the final buyer at risk for loss when the assets contained proved to not be valued as highly as stated.[3]

But the tale of the 1640 countermark that created profit out of thin air doesn't quite end in 1640 or with Louis XIII. Under his legendary son Louis XIV these *billon* issues had their value raised again, specifically in Canada (though, curiously, not in France). This coin, originally worth 12 *deniers*, which had its value raised to 15 *deniers* in 1640 had it raised again – to a whopping 24 *deniers* (double its original value) in 1662. Because the value wasn't raised in France, the predictable happened – a huge flood of these were sent to Canada to circulate at the increased level. So many showed up that there was actually a glut of them, and officials were forced to reduce the value they circulated at – dropping them to 20 *deniers* in 1667, and then to 16 *deniers* for the period of 1680-1690.

In France, however, the *billon douzains* were, in 1679, officially returned to their original value of 12 *deniers* (apparently regardless of whether or not they had the *fleur-de-lys* countermark) – erasing the 3 *denier* profit – but not at the expense of the King, since he had already made his 2 *deniers* on each coin that circulated! That loss was eaten by the merchants and people who had the coins in their possession and could not get them to Canada to circulate at the higher value. But the good King was not quite through yet – after setting the *billon douzains* at the lower value at home (and a low enough value in Canada that it would not be profitable to export them except in huge quantity, something unlikely to occur except at the official level) he again called them back to the royal mints so that they could be struck over with new dies (now called "Recoined Sols") – which were to circulate at a value of, you guessed it, 15 *deniers*! So, just to recap, the Crown made a profit on each coin, as follows:

- roughly 6 *deniers* profit on each *douzain* when it was first struck and circulated (representing the difference between cost to produce and face value),
- 2 *deniers* profit on each coin that was countermarked in 1640 – except for coins in the possession of the crown already (through tax payments, etc.), in which case the crown would keep the full 3 *deniers* profit,
- a profit of 9 *deniers* on each *douzain* it officially sent to circulate in Canada and New France from 1662-1667 where these were valued at 24 *deniers* (not counting shipping costs, of course, but since France

was already sending ships to North America, casks of coins could be used for ballast at no real additional cost to the crown, though shipping and insurance was something that merchants or individuals would have to pay for, making it unfeasible for relatively small amounts),

- -- or – a profit of 5 *deniers* if they were sent from 1667-1680,
- -- or – a profit of 4 *deniers* if they were sent from 1680-1690 – even though the value in Canada had dropped to 16 *deniers* by this point, the value in France had reverted to the original 12 *deniers* as of 1679, giving the crown another opportunity to profit handsomely on bulk shipments,
- then another 3 *deniers* profit on each from the devaluation of the coinage in 1679 – at that point most of these would not have been in the treasury but in circulation (otherwise they wouldn't need to be officially recalled), and when they were paid back in to the treasury for taxes or other amounts due the crown, it would be at the lower value – meaning more individual coins would be paid for the same amount due, the excess going to the crown, and
- then, finally, another 3 *deniers* profit when these were struck with new dies (Recoined Sols) which circulated at the higher 15 *deniers* value.

A clue for the number of 1640 countermarked coins produced also lies in the mintage figures of the Recoined Sols (which were struck from 1692-1705, at every French mint in operation during some of the earlier years, though dwindling to just a few mints in the later years of coinage). The authorization called for 120 million coins to be produced, with these to be struck over earlier *douzains* (with or without the 1640 countermark); once the supply of earlier *douzains* was exhausted the dies were to be used on new planchet (which instead of being a Recoined Sol would technically be called a "*sol de billon neuf*") until the authorized mintage figure was reached. Many mint records exist for the period, and there are numerous years and mints that reported mintages in the millions, so it's likely that the authorized figure was reached. Virgin planchet recoined sols are decidedly rarer than their overstruck counterparts (though far more common in the later years of coinage, as one would expect, as the supply of earlier *douzains* would dwindle and eventually run out). Exactly what percentage of the Recoined Sols were overstruck on pieces with the 1640 countermark, as well as what percentage of 1640 countermarks actually did get recoined are matters of conjecture (clearly not all did, since the 1640 countermarked issues are readily available today), but it would be safe to assume that tens of millions of the 1640 countermarked host coins later served as planchets for the Recoined Sols (and some damaged or lower weight ones may even have been melted to provide the *billon* for the virgin planchet pieces). Others, especially those already in circulation at higher values in Canada, may never have made a return trip to France for recoining at all.

The 1640 countermarked *douzains* offer a fascinating area for the collector who likes the mysteries, intricacies and research potential of a large series that is only scantily

documented and understood (which means that rarities can often be found for little more than type coin money, always a bonus for the collector!). Indeed, work has started on identifying all types of known host coins with these countermarks, a crucial first step towards a greater understanding. If any collectors have examples of host coins unlisted by Vlack in his reference book, this author and/or the editor of this *Newsletter* would be most interested in hearing about them; please feel free to e-mail the editor at his address listed at the beginning of the *Newsletter*, or to this author at: rosaamltd@gmail.com.

Figure 6. *An example of the Recoined Sol coinage, here a 1692-dated piece from the Paris mint (A mintmark, at the center of the reverse), which clearly shows the fleur-de-lys countermark of the douzain undertype at the center of the obverse (the undertype cannot be identified as to actual ruler on this example, though on some Recoined Sols one can see more than enough undertype to be able to determine that information).*

ENDNOTES

1 For such an important issue, Breen paid scant attention to the 1640 countermarks in his *Encyclopedia,* giving them just one paragraph at his number 271 (page 47). Unfortunately in that one small paragraph he made a couple big errors. First he called them "rare" which, as a group, they are not (though individual undertypes can be extremely rare). Second he asserted that these were countermarked "most often on the issue of 1618," which was a Louis XIII douzain. That is most assuredly not correct, and NONE have been found on a 1618 issue. Indeed, only a couple are known on ANY Louis XIII undertypes (and the few that are known are dated 1622), which suggests that some care was taken to not countermark coins of the current King (who would presumably not mind partially defacing the coins of his predecessors, though would have been insulted if that were done to his own coinage of the realm).

2 There is no evidence that any billon douzains were actually confiscated – like much in politics it was a threat more than anything – but could have provided legal cover if the King needed or wanted to confiscate them at some point. The sheer number of earlier douzains that still exist today without countermarks is ample proof that the King's Edict was not heeded by all. It's likely that many merchants and noblemen hung on to these douzains out of fear that countermarked issues would be rejected in trade or later valued downwards.

3 The fact that these large-quantity bags contained counterfeits was not as important as the fact that the bundling of douzains in such bags removed huge amounts of small change from circulation, small change that was desperately needed for everyday purchases by the populace. Several official documents discussed this problem at the time, with individual Arret's of August 5, 1665; October 7, 1666; March 7, 1679 and September 16, 1692 all trying to solve the problem by limiting the number of douzains allowed in a single payment, though apparently without success.

WHAT IS A COLONIAL COIN? – REVISITED

(Tom Kays)

In the 2011 Winter Edition of the *C4 Newsletter*, Past President Ray Williams posed the question when exactly was the "colonial era?" President Jim Rosen wants to promote "colonial type" collecting in addition to variety collecting. *Colonial Era* and *Colonial Types* have always been ambiguous terms for me. Do these terms only refer to coins made in the British colonies that became the United States such as the Hull's Mint at Massachusetts Bay, *circa* 1652? How about British tokens made outside America but imported into American colonies such as *Hogge Money* for Bermuda, *circa* 1616?

Obverse of "Small" Pine Tree Shilling, (Noe 16-Die flaws at tree), back dated to "1652" but actually made under contract to Hull and Sanderson, circa 1675 – 1682 for the Massachusetts Bay Colony

Obverse of Hogge Two Pence (Star between legs) minted circa 1616 for the Sommer Islands - Recall it is believed Juan de Bermudez turned the Hogs loose circa 1515.

Yet there were many more coins made in "American colonies," viewed from the European perspective, such as the early series *Reales* of Mexico City, *circa* 1538 for use in the American colony of New Spain. What about European manufactured coins used in the American colonies such as Elizabethan silver from the Tower Mint of London, or Spanish coins of Ferdinand and Isabella? To be complete should we include the oldest known coin that actually circulated in North America? That coin from Norway, minted *circa* 1080 was lost in North America, *circa* 1235, long before the term "colony" applied. How do you define a complete *Colonial Type Set* for America bracketing the *Colonial Era*? My thoughts align with the broad view, to include numismatic objects such as coins, tokens, medalettes, jetons and circulating counterfeits that routinely were found in new world commerce from the beginnings of empire. *Colonial Era* for me runs from the planting of a European colony through the end of circulation of any coin introduced into

local commerce while the colony stood, from any source. Placing emphasis on "circulation," we exclude unique items as not quite "circulating." Unique items were not important to commerce and certainly not collectible (NC), though interesting. We require each American circulating type to be present in multiple quantities to have had impact upon colonial commerce. In fact colonial coin types found most often, the most common in their day, top my want list.

Obverse of 1562 Milled Six Pence of Elizabeth I of England, Third Issue with Star - Experiments with milling machines would eventually make obsolete the hammered coins

Obverse of Early series, Quartillo or Quarter Real, of Charles and Johanna, Mexico City Mintmark "M" and Assayer "G," undated, circa 1540

Two sorts of personages figure in the introduction of new coinage to the colonies, "*Proprietors*" in charge of empire, usually living back in Europe, many of whom never set foot in their far flung dominions, and their *charges de' affairs* on the ground in the new world, often royal appointees, Governors-General, or Viceroys over large tracts of wilderness. These folks on the ground were responsible to their lords for profit, foremost, and for continuing domination over the fierce inhabitants of their assigned plot of wilderness. I wish to collect coins that jingled in the hands of average colonists and colonial leaders who actually set foot in America. Coins brought by ship reflect European microeconomic conditions at the point of embarkation, places where ships were provisioned, and trade stops along the way. Ray Williams suggested 1607 as a starting point, yet no coins were minted at Jamestown in 1607. In fact, no European coin dated 1607 would have been onboard the Virginia Company ships at Jamestown in 1607, since they left England in 1606. Thomas West, the Lord de la Warr may have brought 1607-dated, King James coins in his resupply ships in 1610, but the first coins in James Fort (precursor to James Town) would be Elizabethan pocket change, as widely circulated over prior decades of economic life, extracted from English port cities by sailors and settlers. We must go way back before 1607 to examine the first coins in the new world to properly set the beginning of the *colonial era.*

SETTING THE START OF THE COLONIAL ERA

Before European contact, Native Americans created metal objects including decorated disks with designs made of native lead, copper and gold, but we discount these as decorative objects, not money. Norsemen left evidence of a fish preserving site at *L'Anse aux Meadows*, Newfoundland, perhaps the first European presence in the new world, but it is at the Goddard Site (native artifacts, circa 1235) on Naskeag Point, Near Bar Harbor at what would become Brooklin, Maine, that was found a silver penny of Olaf Kyrre or Olaf III Haraldsson of Norway, who was present at the Battle of Stamford Bridge in England in 1066, and who founded Bergen in 1070. This crude coin was made in the 11th century, yet it may have circulated across oceans and over a century more before coming to ground where it did. Maine State Museum curators think the most likely explanation for the coin's presence is that it was obtained by natives somewhere else, perhaps at *L'Anse aux Meadows* in Newfoundland, the only known Norse settlement, and that it eventually reached the Goddard site through native trade channels. We unfortunately must ignore this "unique" find which violates our rule of multiplicity. Native Americans no doubt walked about inland with the first coins obtained as curios, picturing "foreign devils" like those seen at coastal landing sites. Where there was one, perhaps other coins from European circulation, *circa* 1235, may likewise be legitimately lost in Native American burial mounds.

Fast forward a quarter millennium to October 1492. Along the shores of Long Bay, San Salvador another landing of Europeans (re)discovered the New World. Ship's crew with Christopher Columbus' fleet may have lost a Castile and Leon, billon *Blanca* of Henry IV (Enrique the Impotent) found there. Since this is a unique find we again discount it. Lacking a picture we note it typically would have on the obverse a crowned lion rampant to left, with legend "HENRICVS: CARTVS DEI GR" or variations and a three towered castle on the reverse with "HENRICVS DEI GRATIA," mint mark below castle. Columbus on his surprising happy return was promised proprietorship over all the new lands he discovered by Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, of course assuming a profit if he could only collect it. Columbus returned on subsequent voyages, soon in competition with other explorers, racing to plant first the Spanish or Portuguese flags across *terra incognita* establishing empires on vellum for the courts of Europe. But America was not quite "settled" until Europeans remained behind on purpose, to anxiously await resupply ships from the mother country. I start my colonies with the return tide that bore away those first ocean-going ships leaving a few hardy souls on shore waving good bye, looking for a safe place to spend the night in their new home.

The complete *American Colonial Type Set* must truly begin about the year 1500 as evidenced by an amazing and less well known coin hoard, listed in John M. Kleeberg's, *Numismatic Finds of the Americas, An inventory of American Coin Hoards, Shipwrecks, Single Coin Finds and Finds in Excavations*, American Numismatic Society Numismatic Notes and Monographs 169, which includes many new world numismatic firsts. This hoard comprised of 112 European coins comes from a site believed occupied from 1494 – 1498 at La Isabela in the Dominican Republic. The hoard includes multiple coins from independent 15th century Spanish, Portuguese and Italian city-states as well as

Nuremberg jetons, coin weights, and perhaps the first contemporary counterfeit in lead to be found in the new world. One hundred and four coins were made of "billon" or a mix of low grade silver (20%) with copper and tin. Only five coins were made of high grade silver. A majority of the coins were issued under Henry IV of Spain, and secondarily by Alphonse V and John II of Portugal. Hoard coins came from Spanish mints at Castille and Leon, Seville, Segovia, Cuenca, Toledo, Coruna, Avila, and early mints of Portugal. To avoid confusion, note that Ferdinand V, King of Castille and Leon, Aragon and Sicily married Isabella of Portugal in 1469. Isabella was daughter of John II and sister of Henry IV. Their marriage united Spanish States with Portuguese interests such that coins of the era were issued under the authority of individual city states and also under the union of Catholic Kings proclaimed by Pope Innocent VII. Under the Catholic Kings, Spanish coins were uniformly denominated in whole units and fractions of gold *excellentes*, silver *reales*, copper *maravedis,* and billon *blancas.* Archaic coin forms circulated side by side in Spanish ports including whole/fractional, hammered *Dinero, Ardite, Pugesa, Senyal, Croat, Ducado,* and *Florin.* In the hoard, unique coins were present from the independent city-states of Aquilea, and Genoa (coincidentally where Christopher Columbus, while living in Portugal claimed to hail from) that later aligned with Italy. Single coins from the Spanish states Burgos and Navarre were also present, but again we discount the unique items from our circulating set. The first and most common coin type belonging in our set is the billon *blanca* of Henry IV of Castille and Leon (1454 – 1474) with sixty coins of the type present in the hoard. Here is where I would start assembling an American Colonial Type Set.

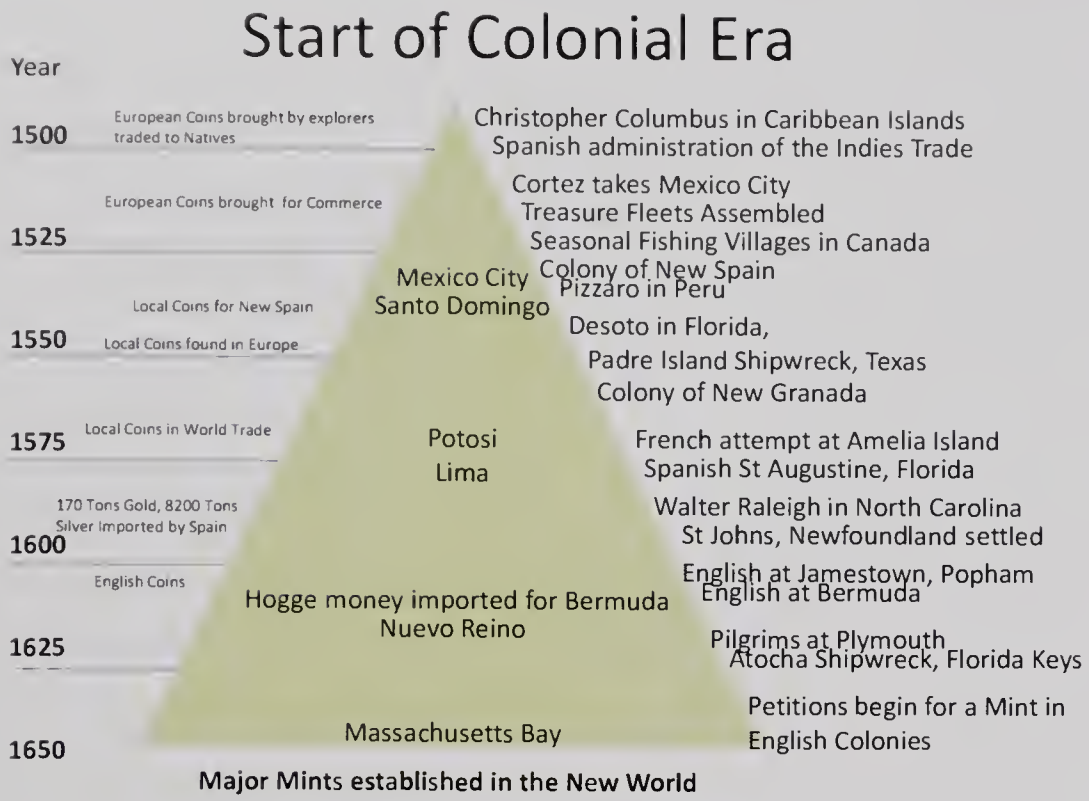
Pictured Left/Center – Obverse/Reverse of a typical Blanca of Ferdinand and Isabella of Cuenca

Size Comparison of a Blanca (top) Lincoln Wheat Cent and Bronze Lepton of Alexander Jannaeus or "Biblical Widows Mite"

Unfortunately, like Biblical Widow's Mites, *Blancas* are some of the least impressive objects to have survived from a 15th century numismatic standpoint. Dateless, dark, unevenly hammered base metal, small as thin dimes, less impressive than a cheap jetton, they are usually found corroded beyond redemption. Surviving examples good enough to fully identify probably never left counting houses in Europe. You'll have to be impressed with their history, based on early new world archeological provenance rather than any outstanding numismatic aspects, yet they must always have been unimpressive, to have been casually lost in such great numbers, on the farthest edge of the civilized world.

As the 16th century dawned, flood gates opened to European trade in the "West" Indies. Coins casually imported by teeming shiploads of explorers, drifters, dreamers and eventually colonists crossed many hundreds of miles afoot and thousands of nautical miles afloat, remaining in use over decades, little regarded beyond bullion value, to become lost in most unlikely places. Very few old coins were intercepted and preserved by passing antiquarians in their day, heralded for future colonial heritage. After hard use the worn old coins were only suitable for the metal smith's melting pot. Throughout the 16th and into the early 17th centuries, coins from mints in France, Portugal, the Low Countries and many competing seagoing nations mixed with local Central/South American colonial products to fill our expanding type set to the bounds of trade across the Holy Roman Empire, and around the globe. Many such coins were used in Colonial America, during the 16th century with growth of administrative and banking centers, commercial ports, fortresses, mining towns and transport centers throughout the Spanish Colony of New Spain, including major cities at Veracruz and Mexico City, the Colony of New Granada including major cities at Cartagena, Lima and Potosi that grew near gold fields and silver strikes, as well as major islands along the Spanish Main such as Cuba (including Havana), and naval resupply centers all the way from South America and points north, to *La Florida,* spread along the North American coast with the trade winds.

Other seedling colonies were attempted by jealous European rivals to wealthy Spain, but were routinely discovered by the Spanish fleet and wiped out to preserve the steady flow of treasure, unmolested by foreign warships operating from "pirate" safe havens. A busy century of commerce, extracted ten thousand tons of gold and silver, blanketed the new world with artifacts, shipwrecks, and lost old coins in service to hundreds of mines, settlements and major cities before Captain John Smith set foot up the Chesapeake Bay. The first English colony in America did not boast any numismatic entry to colonial trade for decades since the entire globe was already well supplied with American coins. Why should we continue to ignore so many true American colonial coins?



Depicted above are "missed" American colonial coin events if we start the "colonial era" in 1652

English footholds were only tentatively planted in America in the 17th century, targeted for hopefully unoccupied sites north of the old Spanish and Portuguese dominions, bringing Elizabethan English coins to America quite late in the game. Seasonal fish preserving villages were worked by several nations along the American North Atlantic coast beginning in the 1520s, with year-round settlement in 1584 at St. John, Newfoundland. Proprietor Sir Richard Grenville sent Sir Walter Raleigh to plant the English flag somewhere north of the Spanish dominions and south of St. John. Finding Roanoke Island on the Albemarle Sound free from Spanish settlement, Sir Walter Raleigh arrived in 1584, left colonists and returned to England, but was delayed on resupply by the threat of invasion by the Spanish Armada in 1588. He returned in 1590 unable to find any fledgling colonists remaining at Roanoke. Finally we come to 1607 as Ray suggested for the start of the colonial era, significant for exploration by both the Plymouth Company (North Virginia Settlement at Popham) and the London Company (South Virginia Settlement at the James River).

Advanced colonial coin collectors may begin to specialize by their favorite colony with many to choose among. I especially look for circulating coins used in New Spain during the 16th century and those used in Virginia starting in the 17th century. My specialized "Virginia-centric" colonial type set includes not only locally excavated examples by type, but also coins used during terms in office of each of Colonial Virginia's chief executives, Royal Governors, and the early Federal U.S. Presidents. Coin types originally circulating at James Fort, at first landing, would include none dated later than 1606, this under Councillour Edward Wingfield, who was made president by sealed orders of the London Company. English coin types of Elizabeth and early King

James would be correct to be present at the first landing. Sir Thomas West, the Lord de la Warre, the first Virginia Governor and Captain-General, arrived in 1610 to make Jamestown a permanent settlement, founding a dynasty of Royal Virginia Governors. active to the American Revolution. In 1611, Sir Thomas Dale commands at James Fort and at Fort Henry and Fort Charles. In 1617, Sir George Yeardley controls settlements at Henricus and Bermuda Hundred. In 1619, Capt. Samuel Argall temporarily commands thousands of colonists until the return of Sir George Yeardley in 1621. With the dissolution of Virginia Company, settlement sites well beyond Jamestown included James City, Charles City, Henricus, Hampton, Smythe's Hundred, Martin's Hundred, Bermuda Hundred, Flowerdew Hundred, etc. In 1624, the Virginia Company notes many and varied foreign coins in circulation in Virginia. In 1625, Sir Francis Wyat is the last Virginia Company chief executive appointed by King James. Thus by 1625, circulating coins up through King James were in trade alongside older coins spanning dates back over half a dozen decades from across the globe driving commerce in Colonial Virginia.

SETTING THE END OF THE COLONIAL ERA

The end of the *Colonial Era* may be reckoned many ways and depends on which colony. Consider Virginia. The departure of the last Virginia Royal Governor, John Murray, Earl of Dunmore (1775) could signify the end, or various legislative actions from 1776 to 1787 such as the installation of Edmund Pendleton per Virginia's Revolutionary Convention - Committee of Safety (1776), or with the appointment of Thomas Jefferson, Governor under the Commonwealth of Virginia, or by the beginning of the Federal mint at Philadelphia (1792). I submit the end of circulation of the old colonial coins which were not demonetized until the latter half of the 19th century truly marks the end of the era. The end of circulating colonial coins was not abrupt at the rise of the Confederation, nor with the switch to a Federal Government, nor from a succession of U.S. laws from 1797 through 1861 that set dates for the removal of "foreign" coins from circulation. *Colonial Era* coins circulated until economic mechanisms drove them out. It took a combination of demonetization laws, adequate Federal coin supply, progressive melts, deportation to farther flung colonies, and the rise of coin collecting as a hobby in America to document the difference. I note colonial era coins were utterly gone from circulation after the American Civil War. They played no role in commerce in America when specie payments resumed, *circa* 1870. By then, any hundred year old, thin colonial coin would be just a curio made of precious metal, suitable for making into brass, or coin silver. But why some colonial coin types were passed over by the first manic collectors of old "American" coins, yet others were coveted such as those associated "Americans?" like William Wood, Mark Newby, John Law, Peter Kempson. George Wyon III, and Mr. Roche must remain a mystery for the *C4 Newsletter* readership to resolve.

In summary, if the colonial era is based on commercial new world circulation of coin types found in multitude (based on time of loss) then the era runs from about 1500 to about 1870 or roughly 370 years duration. If the colonial era is based on coin manufacture in English colonies in North America, then the era runs from 1652 (Massachusetts Bay Colony) to 1776 or about 125 years. We discount the Confederation

as not exactly "colonial" and note foreign coins were actually doing the lion's share of colonial commerce, but we choose not to see them, setting them in the background as we focus on an odd assortment of patterns, medals, English tokens and Irish coins which merely filled the occasional gap in the steady flow of hard money from unofficial trade with Spanish, France, the Low countries and their outposts throughout the Caribbean, Florida, Texas, New Amsterdam and along the Spanish Main.

BUILDING THE AMERICAN COLONIAL COIN TYPE SET – A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE

As a practical example of the difficulties that arise in defining American colonial coin types, I ask *C4 Newsletter* readers to decide whether the following should be included in the set. An interesting group of twenty-seven brassy, copper coins, all dated 1749, were dug at a swampy construction site in Norfolk, Virginia some years ago by a fellow with a metal detector working over the course of a single night. The site was bulldozed the next day so that any remaining coins are there to stay. I make reference to an Internet post to the treasure forum "WWW.MyTreasureSpot.com" on December 21, 2011 by "Digginholes." Also refer to Robert Vlack's, "An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas," F. Pridmore's, "The Coins of the British Commonwealth of Nations, Part 3, West Indies," Chester Krause's, "Standard Catalogue of World Coins, 18th Century Edition," Joe Lasser's gift of coins to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and a relic display I came across decades ago full of artifacts eyeballed at Waterloo after Napoleon's defeat, and also from Portsmouth, Virginia, an item found in 1831. The dug patina of the coins is in concert with having been deeply buried in anaerobic (wet and swampy) conditions. On first glance all the coins appear to be French. Despite having a Paris mint mark "A", they were made in Birmingham, England. All were dated 1749, but were manufactured decades later in the 1780s or 1790s, and simply back-dated. They are copper imitations of old "billon" (billon is a combination of low grade silver with copper and tin) French Sou Marques. Some Sou Marques were counterstamped by the edict of 1763 with a Small Crowned "C", of 7mm size, in 1765 and again in 1779 with a Large Crowned "C" of 12mm size, for circulation as "Sols Estampes" meaning "Marked Sous" and anglicized as "Stampees" in the French West Indies, including the colonies of Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Saint Dominique (Western Hispaniola). They were used throughout the latter part of the 18th century. Both 1749 and 1769 dates are known from Birmingham forgers, with 1769, a total fantasy date. The Crowned "C" counterstamp was made an integral part of the design of the Birmingham fakes, whose dies were shallow on purpose to make the coins look old and worn. Bob Vlack rates the host coin as Rarity-3. Many genuine French Sou Marques that became "Stampees" (circa 1779), along with some forgeries, were again counterstamped by an Act of 5 November 1798 with large incuse letters "ToB" (read "TB over o") and revalued for use in Tobago as 2 ¼ pence. Another smaller, billon coin with different undertype, the "Black Doggs" (named for the black color they quickly turned, having once been shiny "silverish" in color) were similarly counterstamped with just "TB" and worth only 1 ½ pence in Tobago. Forgers quickly added an "o" to the Black Doggs to make them look like the more valuable "Stampees." So the "ToB"

counterstamp places these English Stampee forgeries in Tobago just before the turn of the 19th century.

Left (Obverse) and Right (Reverse) of Joe Lasser's example, now with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, of a 1749 dated, Birmingham manufactured, "Paris" Sou Marque, Crowned "C" Stampee, with Tobago countermark similar to those recently excavated in Norfolk

Now as it turns out, I have a nice one-piece, French Army button with fasces and "RF" for "Republic Francais" that was eyeballed by an old time resident of Tidewater. This button is mounted in an old museum frame from the 19th century along with other French artifacts picked up after Waterloo, which in part bears the caption:

> *In 1800 the French, compelled to evacuate San Domingo sailed for the Chesapeake Bay; and ere sailing for home, sojourned awhile and quartered the troops at Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va. Living at Portsmouth in 1831, and at rear of my lot was a large brick stable (originally a barn) which the said French troops had used for barracks. On examining it one day I scratched up from the earthen floor this Memento of the French Army – J. G. Bruff*

The French Army defeated in Santo Domingo mostly by Yellow Fever, rather than enemy action would most likely have introduced these Tobago, 1798 revalued "Tuppence / Farthings," hosted on English made, counterfeit copper Sou Marques, purportedly from Paris, 1749, but manufactured in Birmingham, England with a bogus 1779 Stampee "Crowned C" revaluation. They must have been lost by one of those island-hopping Frenchmen in 1800, perhaps weak from fever, and just in from Saint Dominique, Western Hispaniola (which became Haiti in 1804) after a stint in Tobago. That's my theory. Would you include these in the American Colonial Type Set? Joe Lasser did.

LEAVING BOSTON IN STYLE

(Leo Shane with inputs from Ray Williams,
Roger Siboni and Neil Rothschild)

Our pilgrimage to the 2011 annual C4 convention started off Thursday morning with four half-asleep travelers meeting up at Roger Siboni's house in Mantoloking, NJ. Besides Roger, the other sojourners included Ray Williams, Neil Rothschild and me. Roger had flown in from the West Coast the night before and Neil drove three plus hours that morning from Maryland to meet us. The trip to Boston was uneventful but very entertaining. There was the usual coin chatter and camaraderie, and we even enjoyed a recording of Benjamin Franklin's life in England before the start of the Revolution. One of the highlights of the ride was Roger ordering Thanksgiving dinner over the phone from a 17-year old girl at a local deli. The banter that went on between a sleep deprived Roger and the young lady was one that would have ranked near the famous Abbot and Costello "Who's on First" routine. Neil and I were sitting in the back seat and struggled to stifle breaking out in laughter. Needless to say, we all arrived safe and sound in Boston, eager to see what treasures awaited us.

The convention was its usual great time to see friends, discuss coins specifics and learn something new. I will leave it to others to recap the convention itself but would say that in general, it was a fantastic convention, even if our numbers were a little diminished from previous years.

We have held the annual C4 convention in Boston for 15 years and every one has been memorable. Because of circumstances beyond the club's control, this was to be the last one in that historic city. This year the exit of these four travelers was a little premature due to a personal issue with one of us plus an extremely tight schedule by the owner of the car, namely Roger. Our exit was planned for 6pm Saturday evening.

With a lot of hand shaking and many good-byes, the four of us were finally ready to leave. Everything was packed (Ray and Neil do not travel light and a shoehorn was needed to get everything in the car). At a little after 6, we pulled out of the hotel carport with Ray driving and Roger threatening to sleep off his now three-day old jet lag and midnight sale antics. The few blocks from hotel to the highway seemed normal but as soon as we tried to go above 50 mph, we noticed a problem. The car seemed to be stuck in low gear and after a few minutes, the engine began to heat up. We stopped once to see if there was some button pushed or something else out of place. We decided to move on. A few miles down the road, we again stopped to let the engine cool down and consult the owner's manual. Nothing was found to help our plight. A few more miles down the road and there was a rest stop (Framingham). With the engine overheating and the car not able to get above 50 mph, we decided that we should pull into the rest stop.

After we stopped, we pooled our collective auto expertise (it took 30 seconds) and finally determined that the car was "broken." It was now about 7pm on a Saturday night and Roger flew into action calling Hertz (he is an elite diamond grand poobah member or

something like that). All efforts pointed to towing the car and taking us to Logan airport to rent another to get home. This caused Roger the problem of having his car repaired locally and then getting it back to New Jersey, 260 miles away. With Hertz on the phone, Roger then approached a limo driver who had pulled into the rest stop with the idea of driving us back to NJ. This was a 12-passenger limo which we could have stocked with big Macs for the ride home. The driver was willing but when he checked with the owner of the limo company, he was reminded that his license was not good outside of Massachusetts. No amount of persuasion (read $s -- lol) could convince him to take the chance.

With the idea of leaving his car in MA becoming less and less appealing, Roger then began to call any and all towing companies in the area. Of course many were closed on a Saturday night and those who were open had to check to see if they could get a driver to make the 5 hour one-way trip to NJ. At one point there were 3 cell phones in use and "on hold" waiting for a response. Then there was the request by Roger that the 4 travelers stay in the car while it was on the flat bed of the tow truck. This was rejected by all companies and no amount of persuasion (read $ -- lol) could convince them to take the chance. A new strategy now had to be put in effect.

It was Saturday night at about 8pm and we were now looking for a flat bed tow truck to drive 260 miles from Framingham, MA to Mantoloking, NJ – AND it must have a club cab to accommodate four passengers. What are the chances of finding that? Well, as luck would have it, we did locate one, and an agreement was made. The only problem was the truck could not come until 9:30pm. There wasn't a better alternative and so we waited and grabbed coffee at the rest stop food court. About 9:40, the truck arrived and with the car on the flatbed, we piled into the cab. Ray rode shotgun for the first part while Roger, Neil and Leo squeezed onto the bench seat in the back. Roger refused to acknowledge the entire situation and with headphones on, tried to fall asleep. Our journey back home was finally moving along again. Weaving in and out of lanes and the driver smacking himself to stay awake made for a very interesting trip.

We made two stops, grabbed something to eat and switched places, believe me, shotgun was the most comfortable. Oh, did I mention the high-pitched "check engine" alarm that went off periodically. The driver told us not to worry about it since it happens all the time. We heard what he said but were taking bets that the truck would not make the round trip. We only hoped it would make it to NJ. We all had our doubts and the thought of breaking down in Manhattan or the middle of nowhere in the early morning hours were not very appealing. Finally, we pulled into Mantoloking about 2:30am.

Now, at 2:30am, Mantoloking appears to be asleep. We did not realize how asleep it really was. A few minutes after we pulled up in front of Roger's house, a fire alarm went off three or four houses down the street. No lights came on, and no one seemed to notice. We went about the business of backing the tow truck into Roger's driveway. No sooner was this done than a Police car came down the street and told us that the truck needed to move as it was blocking the street for the fire truck. We had to wait for a second one to go by a few minutes later. It was about this time that a pajama-

clad neighbor finally walked down the street to see what was going on. Other than ourselves, he was the only sign of life that night. The positive side to no lights being turned on was that the stars were bright and I received an introduction to the celestial bodies by Neil as we were waiting for the truck to drop Roger's car. By the way, the fire alarm proved to be false and no fire was found.

It was about 3:30am when we finally were unpacked and on our way from Roger's house. This author did not get home until 5am, having to stop at Ray's house to pick up my car. Roger later told us that the problem was a coolant leak costing about $200 to fix.

This was by far the most memorable exit from Boston in all my years of going to the C4 convention. It is one I'll long remember but hope never to repeat. Leaving Boston in style may have a different meaning for others but for me I'll just think of a 5-hour ride in the wee hours of the morning in the cab of a flat bed. This will be a trip we'll laugh about for a long time.

NOTE: your editor understands that Roger has now disposed of this "inconvenient vehicle!"

COLONIAL PAPER AND COLONIAL TYPE COLLECTORS

In response to President Rosen's call in the last *Newsletter* for Colonial Currency Collectors and Colonial Type Collectors to provide information on their interest, two have responded:

Count me in as a "Colonial Currency Collector!" Tom Gesner, Emeryville, CA (SF Bay Area) tmg_investments@yahoo.com

I am both a colonial type coin collector and a colonial paper money collector. I would like to share my email address with others who have similar interests. Tim Daum cadtad@comcast.net

Stack's Bowers Galleries to Conduct C4 Annual Auctions

(From the February 6, 2012, *Collecting News*)

Stack's Bowers Galleries has announced that it has entered into a multi-year agreement with the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4) to conduct an annual auction of Colonial coinage and related material. The inaugural joint auction will take place during the Stack's Bowers Galleries Official Auction of the Whitman Coin and Collectibles Expo in Baltimore November 12-18, 2012. At this show, C4 will have its annual convention. Stack's Bowers is inviting consignments of Colonial coinage and related material such as Colonial currency as well as other U.S. coins and currency from now until September 24, 2012, and interested consignors are asked to call 800.458.4646 to discuss opportunities.

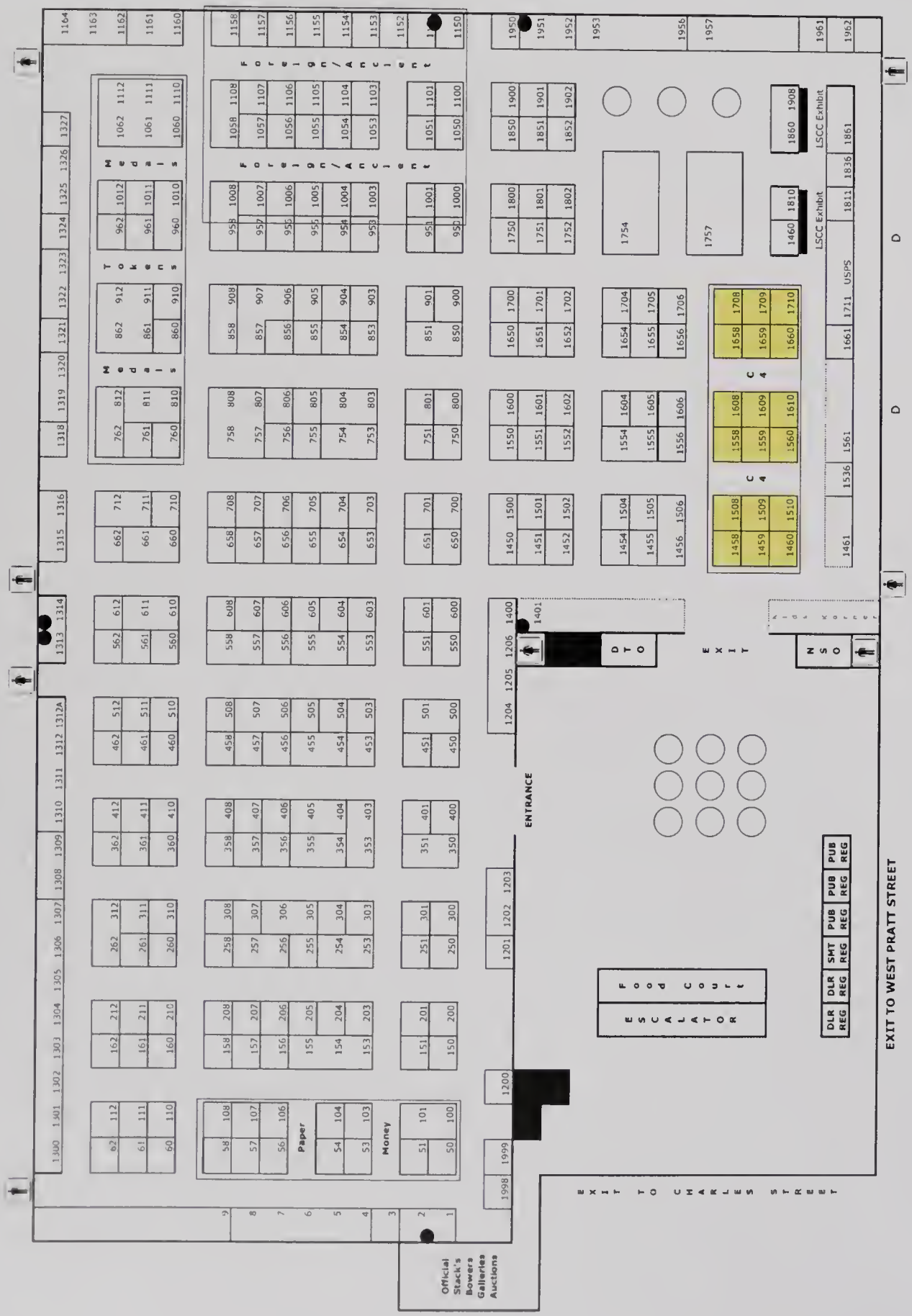
"The Colonial Coin Collectors Club is a non-profit organization that seeks to increase the public's knowledge about Colonial numismatics and to promote the study of Colonial numismatics. In order to fulfill this mission, C4 has a yearly convention where they hold an auction that provides capitol for their operating budget, and it is a great pleasure for Stack's Bowers Galleries to be able to support them in their efforts to advance the study of Colonial numismatics," said Chris Napolitano, president of Stack's Bowers Galleries. "The Stack's Bowers Americana Sales are a long-standing tradition which are very popular among Americana collectors and will give a great amount of added exposure to the annual C4 convention, which is a benefit to both buyers and sellers of Colonial items."

Stack's Bowers will donate 100 percent of the hammer price and all commissions to the Club from a select number of lots donated by C4 members. Information about the club can be found at www.colonialcoins.org.

"We are very excited about this opportunity with Stack's Bowers in Baltimore where our club will be exposed to many more collectors and dealers. Our co-sponsored auction will expand our reach to so many more buyers and we are looking forward to working with Stack's Bowers for their reputation and expertise," said Jim Rosen, president of the Colonial Coin Collectors Club. "I encourage C4 members to participate by consigning and buying in this auction in support of our organization. The more participation we have by our own members, the better the benefits will be to the club."

NOTES ON THE BALTIMORE C4 CONVENTION -- FROM JIM ROSEN

I have attached two files from David Crenshaw – one is the C4 floor plan and the other is the Booth Application for Baltimore. I think in order to get the application to those who want it, I thought it would be a good idea to send both of these attachments in the Spring Newsletter, thus allowing dealers to have the C4 application and a visual of where our area is going to be (the yellow tables in the floor plan):



COIN -AND- COLLECTIBLES EXPO, LLC

C4 Dealer Booth Application — Baltimore Expo

Baltimore Convention Center • One West Pratt Street
Thursday–Sunday, November 15-18, 2012
Dealer set-up begins 8 a.m., Thursday, November 15
Open to the public 12 p.m., Thursday and 10 a.m., Fri., Sat., and Sun.

Name: _____

Company (Program Listing): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Booth Sign: Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Standard Booth includes one eight-foot table with a back-up table, four chairs, three badges, one sign, one trash can, and one electrical outlet.

Corner Booth includes two eight-foot tables with a back-up table, six chairs, five badges, one sign, one trash can, and one electrical outlet.

Note: Booths do not have piping/drapes. Cases and lamps are not included. The sign is a tent card, not a hanging sign.

Description	Qty	Price	Ext
C4 Standard Booth		$350	
C4 Corner Booth		$500	
Lamp Rental		$10	
Case Rental		$20	
Extra Dealer Badge		$100	
Extra Booth Sign		$15	
		Credit Adjustment	
		Total Due	

Including you, please list the names for dealer badges:

1. _____ **4.** _____

2. _____ **5.** _____

3. _____ **6.** _____

Booths will only be in the name, and only occupied by, the dealer that is the registered exhibitor. The dealer that is registered as the exhibitor may not sublet the booth to another entity without prior written permission. Whitman Coin & Collectibles Expo reserves the right to reassign booths at its discretion.

Dealers are expected to have booths staffed, with inventory on display until the close of business on Saturday. Sunday is optional. Dealers whose booths are not open (staffed, with inventory on display) at the close of business on Saturday will not be guaranteed the same booth location at the next show, and they will be moved to the bottom of the waiting list for upgraded locations. Requests for early departure must be in writing and will be honored at the discretion of show management.

No dealer may knowingly exhibit or offer for sale any illegal coins, counterfeits, forgeries, unmarked copies, or other spurious merchandise. The penalty for such action shall be immediate ejection of the dealer from the bourse and the possible suspension and/or subsequent expulsion from future Whitman Coin & Collectibles Expos. Insurance against loss of material is the responsibility of the dealer. Show management reserves the right to revise show dates and/or hours.

Booth holder shall be responsible for compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, including the activities of all badge holders operating under the name of booth holder. This includes, but is not limited to, the Maryland sales tax laws and the Maryland Trader's License law. It is our understanding that the sale of rare coins and bullion over $1,000 are generally exempt from the imposition of the Maryland sales tax. We encourage all dealers to consult their legal and/or tax advisor as to their responsibility to do business at the Baltimore Convention Center.

The Expo is intended for the display of numismatic items and numismatic-related items offered for sale by the registered dealer in the ordinary course of business. Whitman Coin & Collectibles Expo reserves the right to require dealers to remove non-numismatic items from display. Numismatic auctioneers (other than the Official Expo Auctioneers) may display up to 250 highlighted lots (3 cases maximum) for future auctions. Numismatic auctioneers (other than Official Expo Auctioneers) agree not to conduct any auction or competitive bid sales of numismatic items within the city limits of the Expo site during the period of the show.

The undersign hereby releases the Baltimore Convention Center and Whitman Coin & Collectibles Expo, LLC their respective officers, employees, subcontractors, committee members or volunteers from responsibility for any loss, damage, or injury whatsoever sustained, either directly or indirectly, in connection with this event, and agrees to abide by all conditions of this document.

Signature _____ Date _____

Make checks payable to **Whitman Coin & Collectibles Expo**. Please mail completed and signed application with a check for the total amount due to **David Crenshaw, Whitman Coin & Collectibles Expo, 3101 Clairmont Road, Suite G, Atlanta, GA 30329**. Upon receipt of application with full payment, a confirmation notice with assigned booths and show information will be sent to you no later than two weeks before the show. If you have any questions, please call 404-214-4373, fax 678-891-4599, or email info@whitmanexpo.com. Thank you!

Cancellation Policy: Notice of cancellation must be in writing. Full booth payment is due at the time the application is submitted. Any booth not paid in full will be subject to reassignment or resold with no recourse to the original dealer. 100% of any payment made will be refunded for cancellations received in writing no later than thirty (30) days before show. There are no refunds for cancellations 30 days or less prior to the show. Whitman Coin & Collectibles Expo reserves the right to reassign booth numbers at its discretion.

Booths may be shared. However, for safety and security, there is a maximum for each standard booth of three persons, and one sharing company, and a maximum for each corner booth of five persons, and two sharing companies.

Sharing Company #1

Name:

Company (Program Listing):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone: Email:

Booth Sign: Line 1:

Line 2:

Sharing Company #2

Name:

Company (Program Listing):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone: Email:

Booth Sign: Line 1:

Line 2:

Maryland Sales Tax
The management of the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Expo is required by law to provide the Comptroller of Maryland the names and addresses of all dealers who are show exhibitors. Each exhibitor is responsible for the collection, reporting, and payment of taxable sales made during the Baltimore Coin and Currency Convention. In Maryland, there is no sales tax on transactions of coins and bullion over $1,000. Sales under $1,000 are subject to sales tax.

The Maryland Department of Revenue sends out temporary sales tax forms to all exhibitors that do not have a Maryland sales tax number. If you are unable to attend or are a wholesale only exhibitor, you are still required to sign and return the form. If you fail to return the form, the Comptroller of Maryland will not issue you a future temporary sales tax number and you will not be able to do business in Maryland. Any exhibitor who does not comply with the laws of the State of Maryland will not be allowed to exhibit at future conventions.

If you have not received your temporary sales and use tax license prior to a show, you may be delinquent in paying sales taxes at one or more past shows. A representative from the Comptroller of Maryland office may attend a show to collect delinquent sales taxes before issuing these companies licenses. At the show, you must be prepared to pay any delinquent sales taxes or provide proof of paid sales taxes for any past show in question. When all tax matters are resolved you will be allowed to setup and sell at the show.

If you have any questions regarding your compliance with the collection, reporting, and payment of taxable sales or believe you are delinquent in your sales tax payments from any past shows, please contact Comptroller of Maryland, Compliance Division, Special Events Unit, (410) 767-1544.

Maryland Trader's License/Exhibitors Affidavit
The Trader's license or Exhibitor's affidavit is not the same as the temporary sales and use tax license you receive from the Maryland Department of Revenue (see above).

In addition, Maryland state law requires that exhibitors have a valid Trader's License or Exhibitor's Affidavit for each show; details are below. At the conclusion of each show, we must forward all Exhibitor Affidavits to Maryland's Comptroller of the Treasury.

1. License or Affidavit?
To participate in the Whitman Coin and Collectibles Baltimore Expo, an exhibitor must do ONE of the following PRIOR to the start of EACH show:
a. Submit a photocopy of a current valid Trader's License for a fixed place of business in Maryland. (You do not need to get another, separate license for the show; a photocopy of your existing license is sufficient.)
OR
b. Complete an Exhibitor's Affidavit stating both of the following:
-- The exhibitor receives less than 10% of annual income from selling like goods at the show.
-- The exhibitor has not participated in more than three shows during the previous 365 days.

2. Where to get one:
A copy of the Exhibitor's Affidavit is available at whitman.com/expo or upon request.

3. We must receive a copy of the appropriate form PRIOR to the start of the show. Upon receipt of this letter, please send a photocopy of a valid Trader's License OR the completed Exhibitor's Affidavit to info@whitmanexpo.com, fax it to 678-891-4599, or mail it to the address on the front page.

Revised February 1, 2012

APRIL 1, 2012 – Industry Changing Grading Service Formed

For too long we have allowed powerful unseen forces to dictate the grade of our coins. The 70-point Sheldon grading system is imprecise, obsolete and represents the past. We must *Think Big*. Out with Sheldon. Out with the proposed 100-point grading scale. In with UGrade, a revolutionary new concept for a new century. After all, it's Your money; it should be Your grade.

With UGrade You will get choice, not chance. Never be disappointed again. No more improperly cleaned. No more environmental damage. No more body bags. At last, the little guy will be heard. At UGrade, Your satisfaction is our goal. At UGrade, the customer is always right. At UGrade, You will receive coins the way You like them.

UGrade, conceived by forward looking industry leaders in a flash of blinding insight; will feature a 1000 point millennium grading scale to allow for even more opportunities to haggle over the grade of a given coin. Because a coin has three sides; UGrade will assign the numerical grade You desire to the obverse, reverse and rim of Your coin for even greater grading precision. UGrade will provide grades the way You like them. Because all coins are not mint state, UGrade will adopt a Business Strike and Proof Strike nomenclature to be abbreviated as "BS" and "PS." Under the new system, the coin grade will appear in the following format: BS: 747/816/912 etc. with the desired suffixes following. Now we will finally have grading precision suitable for the 21st century.

UGrade will service any coin ever made with encasements ranging from the diminutive "El Pequeño" for the Indian 1/16 Rupee; to the massive "El Gordo" specifically engineered for the stone money of the Island of Yap. The "El Gordo" encasement will also feature built-in ringbolts to facilitate movement by chain hoist or portable derrick.

UGrade will have a sliding fee scale based on coin value and grade desired. An extra fee will be applied for such super designations as PQ, PL, Star, CC and Registry Set. If you have a grading problem, UGrade has a solution. If you have the money honey, we have the slab. You'll have it made with UGrade.

Conceived and Submitted by Spence and Dave's Traveling Numismatic Museum; most recently based in Atlanta, GA.

Dave Weygant
Lake Placid, FL

Spencer Peck
Oldwick, NJ

Honorials and Memorials Funds Established

The Board of Directors has established Honorial and Memorial Funds into which money can be donated from members and non-members of C4 in memory of an individual or in honor of an occasion. Currently, there are two funds into which one can donate. The current funds are the "Educational Fund" and the "Library Fund." The distribution of money from these Funds will be done by a committee made up of Jim Rosen, President, Jack Howes, National Vice President and Buell Ish, Region 7 Vice President.

We would ask that individuals who want to donate money in memory of an individual or to honor an individual or an occasion (excluding weddings and birthdays and anniversaries), fill out the attached form, paying particular attention to the fields that are stared. Send the filled out form to the C4 Treasurer. Your donation will be acknowledged by a personal letter and also in the *Newsletter* unless you want your donation kept anonymous. In addition, the person or family to whom you are making your donation in memory of or in honor of will receive a letter notifying them of the donation. As we are a "Non- Profit" organization, your donation is tax deductible (but always consult your tax advisor regarding this).

We sincerely hope that this venue will keep the memories of our dear friends alive and let us honor our friends and occasions.

Jim Rosen, President, C4.

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FUND CONTRIBUTION FORM

Educational Fund Library Fund

Donation to *_____Fund Contribution Amount *$_____
By or Can be anonymous *_____ Phone _____
Address of Donor* _____City*_____
State* _____Zip*_____

Please Circle One: IN HONOR OF IN MEMORY OF

(Name) _____

Notify *_____
Address*_____City*_____
ST*____Zip*_____

Send check and form to: Charlie Rohrer C4 Treasurer P.O. Box 25 Mountville, PA 17554

C4 LIBRARY NEWS

(Leo Shane)

Thank You to those who have checked their old copies of auction catalogs and donated them to the library. There's still room for more. The Library is still interested in getting copies of past auction catalogs that we currently do not have. Take a look at the list shown on the club website. Any that are not already in the library will be greatly appreciated. Remember, all catalogs that have at least one Colonial will have the colonial section separated and added to the library archive. Catalogs with major colonial content will be retained in their entirety.

Books, Manuscripts & Auction Catalogs:

Early American Numismatics, *Colonial & Continental Coins & Currency United States Coins Encased Postage Stamps,* 12 January 1991, La Jolla, CA – Donated by Jim Jones.

Early American Numismatics, *Historic American Coins Currency & Printed Americana,* 21 March 1992, La Jolla, CA – Donated by Jim Jones.

Stacks, *The Henry Leon Sales,* 22 May 2007, New York, NY – Donated by Jim Jones.

Bowers and Merena, *The Kissel and Victoria Collections,* 11-13 September 1989, New York, NY – Donated by Jim Jones.

Bowers and Merena, *The Collections of R.H. Gore Jr. and Dennis Irving Long,* 24-26 January 1990, Pasadena, CA – Donated by Jim Jones.

American Numismatic Rarities, *The Haig A. Koshkarian Collection,* 9-10 March 2004, Baltimore MD – Donated by Jim Jones

Early American History Auctions, *Mail Bid & Internet Auction – Autographs Coins Currency Americana,* 10 December 2005, Rancho Santa Fe, CA – Donated by Jim Jones.

Goldberg Auctions, *The Pre Long Beach Auction – United States Coins &Ancient & world Coins,* 20-21 September 2010, Los Angeles, CA – Donated by Jim Jones.

Kingswood Galleries, *The Franconia Sale,* Mail Bid Sale closing 4 August 1992, Wolfeboro, NH – Donated by Steve Saari.

Stacks, *Dr. Conway A. Bolt Collection of United States Gold Silver & Copper Coins and Paper Currency,* 21-23 April 1966, New York, NY – Donated by Steve Saari.

Stacks, *Dr. Wilson S. Rise Collection and Other Important Consignments,* 30 September – 1 October 1966, New York, NY – Donated by Steve Saari.

Paramount, *New England Numismatic Association,* 14-16 October 1966, Worcester, MA – Donated by Steve Saari.

Lester Merkin, *Public Auction Sale*, 20 September 1967, New York, NY – Donated by Steve Saari.

Lester Merkin, *Public Auction Sale*, 12 June 1968, New York, NY – Donated by Steve Saari.

Lester Merkin, *Public Auction Sale - Americana*, 20 November 1968, New York, NY – Donated by Steve Saari.

Convention Booklet for the 17Th Annual C4 Convention, 10 - 13 November 2011, Boston, MA. Includes; schedule of events, bourse floor plan, president's message, Donated Lots and exhibit list – Donated By Ray Williams.

Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Please consider donating books, auction catalogs, etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying your coins later. Thank You, my E Mail is Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com or write to me at 1130 Woods Lane. Warminster PA 18974.

**********ANNOUNCEMENTS**********

We have received word that C4 member Kent Vickery passed away suddenly on June 1st, 2011. He was age 69. He was born in Wichita, Kansas on February 28, 1942, son of Ward and Veda Vickery (deceased). He graduated from Wichita University and served in the military. He and his doctorate in Anthropology at Indiana University and served as a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Cincinnati for 34 years. He is survived by his wife of 47 years Karen Davies Vickery of Kingman, Kansas.

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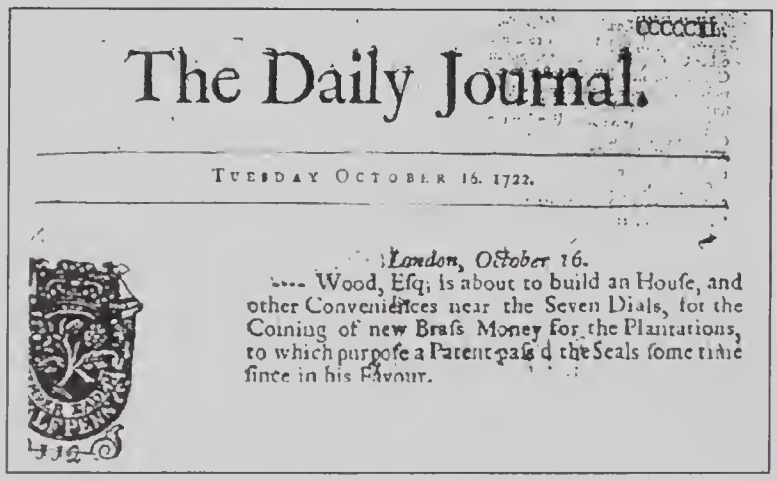
C4 ANNOUNCES THE RELEASE OF ITS LATEST BOOK: THE ROSA AMERICANA COINAGE OF WILLIAM WOOD

by Sydney F. Martin

William Wood conceived a plan to manufacture coins for Britain's American Plantations, which were constantly in need of small change to support everyday commercial transactions. This plan became entangled in the politics and economic theories of the day, with King George, his mistress, Isaac Newton, Robert Walpole, and other English notables, as well as the colonial merchants, playing key roles in the story behind the production and distribution of the coins.



The Daily Journal.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 16. 1722.

London, October 16.

---- Wood, Esq; is about to build an House, and other Conveniences near the Seven Dials, for the Coining of new Brass Money for the Plantations, to which purpose a Patent past d the Seals some time since in his Favour.

Drawing upon his original research the author examines the historical context in which the coins were produced, integrating often conflicting, existing material. Particular attention is paid to the methods employed in manufacturing these coins, from the underlying metallurgy, to the process of preparing and striking the planchets, the locations where they were made and their circulation patterns.

A catalogue of known die varieties is developed for each of the three denominations issued. Some 21 varieties of halfpence, 66 varieties of pence, and 36 varieties of twopence are identified. As well as describing the coins themselves, he has explored related experimental and pattern issues, providing new insights into these enigmatic issues. Production quantities are estimated, rarity and condition census data developed, and major holdings examined.

Michael Hodder, in his *Introduction* states "The best advice anyone can take before undertaking a difficult research project is condensed in this quotation from Marcus Portius Cato Censorius (234-149 B.C.): 'Master the subject, the words will follow.' Syd Martin's new book on William Wood's Rosa Americana issues is a good example of the continuing aptness of the saying."

The book, which is enjoying early favorable reviews, can be obtained from Charles Davis, Numismatic Literature, P.O. Box 547, Wenham, MA 01984; Tel: 978-468-2933; Fax: (978) 468 7893; email: numislit@aol.com.

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Obtaining Back Copies of C4 Newsletter and C4 Auction Catalogues

Wayne Shelby has agreed to store the back copies of the *C4 Newsletter*. People wishing to purchase back issues that are still available should send their money to our treasurer, Charlie Rohrer, whose contact data are at page 2. Upon receipt of the money, he will contact Wayne, who will mail out the material. Back copies of the *Newsletter* are $10 for the first and $8 for all after that placed at the same time. If you have questions of what material is available, you can contact Wayne at:

P.O. Box 568
Rancocas, NJ 08073-956

dughistory@juno.com
609-261-6662 (Home)

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C4 Offers Important Colonial Books

For more information on the following three books, published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), visit the C4 website at www.colonialcoins.org. These books may be ordered directly from: Charles Davis, Numismatic Literature, P.O. Box 547, Wenham, MA 01984; Tel: 978-468-2933; Fax: (978) 468 7893; email: numislit@aol.com.

(1) Jordan, Lou. *John Hull, The Mint, and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage,"* Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2002.

(2) Vlack, Robert. *An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2004.

(3) Martin, Sydney. *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724),* Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007.

Hardbound copies of past C4 auction catalogues are available in very limited numbers. If interested, contact Ray Williams or Leo Shane.

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The Daniel Frank Sedwick database of fake cobs is now on ForgeryNetwork : http://www.forgerynetwork.com/default.aspx?keyword=cob..http://www.forgerynetwork.com/asset.aspx?id=QEjfzd5ZR~x~8=

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The Silver Coins of Massachusetts. *The Silver Coins of Massachusetts* by Christopher J. Salmon is a splendidly illustrated review of the silver coins of Massachusetts, employing the latest historical and numismatic evidence as well as novel scientific analysis. Minting techniques are explored in detail. All varieties of the coinage are newly classified with a consistent yet flexible taxonomic system that lists the varieties in chronological order and can readily accommodate potential future discoveries. The system allows an appreciation for how varieties evolved and the relative degree of change that occurred at each step. It is designed to be as simple as possible without oversimplifying, with all varieties named according to their obverse and reverse dies. The book includes a fully illustrated atlas that details important characteristic features. The last part of the atlas displays each variety at actual size to aid in attribution. Regardless of your specialty, adding a Massachusetts Shilling to your collection is always a welcome event. Consider adding this book to your library. To order, call Megan at ANS with your credit card at 212-571-4470 ext 117.

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C4 Membership Dues

Annual dues are currently $25.00 for Regular Membership and $10.00 for Junior Membership (under 18 years of age). They are payable on a calendar year basis... due January 1. The year through which you are paid appears after your name on the mailing address label on the *C4 Newsletter* envelope. Life Memberships can be purchased for 25 times the annual membership cost, or $625.00. You may mail checks (made out to "C4") to:

Charlie Rohrer
C4 Treasurer
PO Box 25
Mountville, PA 17554

Thank you for paying in a timely manner... It makes his job easier and will be much appreciated!

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2012 EAC Convention - Buffalo, NY (3-6 May 2012)

Adams Mark Hotel; 120 Church Street; Buffalo, NY 14202

C4 has always had a presence at **EAC Conventions** and **EAC Buffalo** promises to be a fun convention this year. The preliminary Schedule of Events (exact times will be set closer to the events):

Wednesday May 2: Noon Security Room opens; "Boys of 94" trip to Buffalo Historical Society; Evening – "Boys of 94 Meeting."

Thursday May 3: 1:00 to 5:00pm – Dealer Set up; 6:00pm – EAC Reception; Evening Happenings (**Colonial** [details below], Half Cent, Large Cent and John Reich Society).

Friday May 4: 8:00am to 5:00pm – Bourse open to Dealers; 9:00am to 5:00pm – Bourse open to Public. Noon – Mark Borckardt on "When Was the War of 1812?"; 1pm – Greg Heim on "The Reality of Die Variety/Marriage Attribution;" 2pm – Howard Spencer Pitkow on "My Soujourn in China and Hong Kong---Acquiring Counterfeit US Copper Large Cents;" 3pm – Bill Eckberg on "Men at Work: The Mint in 1793;" 4pm – Steve Carr on "Misaligned Die Large Cents;" 5:30pm – Ronald Cary on "18th Century Tavern. Music presentation with cash bar; Buffalo Historical Society presentation; Evening Educational Presentations to be announced.

Saturday May 5: 8:00am – EAC Board Meeting; 9:00am – C4 Meeting (Tentative); 8:00am to 5:00pm – Bourse open to Dealers; 9:00am to 5:00pm – Bourse open to Public. Noon – Franklin Noel on "Coinage, Sovereignty, and The Birth of The Republic;" 1pm – John Kraljevich on "Money and Medals of Early Upstate New York;" 2pm – Chuck Heck on "The Buffalo Copper Connection;" 3pm – Mark Borckardt on "Who Am I?: An Interactive Numismatic Seminar;" 4pm – Pete Smith on "The Starred Reverse Cent and 1792 Half Dime: Conducting Pedigree Research with Current Resources." Evening EAC Auction (Must be an EAC Member to bid).

Sunday May 6: 9:00am – EAC General Membership Meeting; 10:00am to 4:00pm – Bourse opens to Collectors and Dealers; 10:00am – Auction Lot Pick up.

For hotel reservations call (716) 845-5110 and mention EAC.
Chairmen: John Bailey and Nick Gampietro

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COLONIAL COLLECTORS ATTENDING EAC IN BUFFALO: The **COLONIAL HAPPENING [see above for schedule]** has typically been a social time where we share coins we have brought along for discussion. This year, with the convention being not too far (but definitely not walking distance) from Machin's Mills in NY, I'd like to ask those attending to bring along their Machin's coins for study. AND, I'd like to ask everyone to bring any colonial item (paper or coin or medal or exonumia) for study too. These items can be an unusual die state, die error, unusual planchet, a new acquisition, a coin you have questions about... bring anything. But please attend, whether you bring something or not.

Are you concerned about others handling your coins? Don't be! We set up a projector and camera and just project the image on a screen so everyone sees the coin and can comment. The quality of the images are excellent and we can see even fine details. So please attend on Thursday night and prepare to enjoy an informal time of colonial numismatic fun. If you have any questions, please call or email Ray Williams, 609-587-5929 or njraywms@optonline.net.

PS : Those attending the other Happenings are welcome to duck in and out as you have the time. All are welcome!

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In accordance with our by-laws, those who have recently joined C4 as provisional members are listed below. If any current C4 member in good standing has a reason any of the following should be denied membership in C4, please contact either your Regional VP or the President of the Club, Jim Rosen. The new provisional members, with their home states, are :

Alan Cary - CA
Cal Goddard - CA
Leonard Massa - IL
Julia Purdy - NY
Dave Townson - CT
Ed Zimmerman - GA
Robert Levinson - CA

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NOTES ON NUMISMATIC LITERATURE AT PRINCETON

(David Gladfelter)

I visited the Capping Liberty exhibit at Princeton and offer these notes on some of the numismatic literature seen there.

• Henry Phillips's personal copy of his two volume treatise, *Historical Sketches of the Paper Currency of the American Colonies Prior to the Adoption of the Federal Constitution* (Roxbury, MA., W. Elliot Woodward's Historical Series, 1865), interleaved, with actual specimens of colonial currency mounted in the interleaves; the books on exhibit are opened to the New Jersey and Continental Currency sections.

• A copy of the only book written by the author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson, from the University's rare book collection, signed by Jefferson with annotations in his own hand. Jefferson, along with Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, had much to do with the choice of images to be placed on our coins and currency, and sections of the exhibit are devoted to the numismatic legacy of these men.

The exhibit, drawn entirely from the University's holdings, will remain open through July 8. There will be curatorial tours led by Alan Stahl at 2:30 p.m. on March 25, May 6 and May 31. The May 6 tour will be followed with a lecture by Louis Jordan of the University of Notre Dame on the topic "Transformations in Numismatic Iconography during the American Revolution."

COINS STOLEN FROM THE ANA

The following are Colonial Coins Missing from ANA Money Museum, and their whereabouts are under investigation. If you have any information that may lead to the recovery of these stolen coins, please call 719-482-9841. For high resolution images of these coins please visit http://www.money.org/ana_custom/MissingCoinsList aspx.

Massachusetts Oak Tree 3 Pence - Noe 28

Massachusetts Pine Tree Shilling - Noe 16 small planchet

Rhode Island Ship Medal - Breen 1142

Ireland North American Token - Breen 1143/1144

John Chalmers Shilling - Breen 1011, short worm

USA Bar Cent - Breen variety 1145

CLASSIFIED ADS

Grayscale ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows (color ads are 50% more in each category):

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	4 issues	Copy Size
1 page	$200	$300	$450	$600	6" x 9"
1/2 page	$125	$180	$250	$350	6" x 4.5"

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire). If you want to include a photo with your ad there will be an additional $10 charge. A black and white photo will be needed, but the size can be adjusted. Please send check with your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of text.

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads, and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.

✧✧✧

The Earliest American Coppers. Contemporary Counterfeit British & Irish Halfpence and Farthings. My personal collections built over the past decade are now for sale. We now have a webpage up and running with most coins imaged and priced. More will go up from time to time. I also have some Colonials and Spanish American Colonials-Cobs up. There are currently about 12 categories populated with coins for sale, they are; British George II, British George III, Irish George II, Irish George III, Counterstamps, Cast Ctfts, Mules, Errors, Regal's Colonials and Cobs. In the near future I will be adding some interesting Misc. I am still selling CD's of my collections, the details are on the webpages. Postage is always free for C4 and EAC members. Please use the savings towards next years dues ;-). Please visit the webpages and feel free to email with any questions.
Clement V. Schettino, PO Box 1093, Saugus, MA 01906
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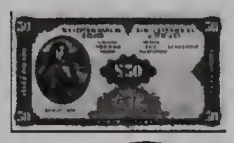

All U.S. Coins, Irish Medieval Silver Coinage,
Irish Coppers including Silver Gun Money,
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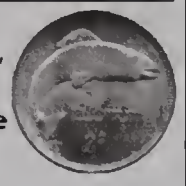

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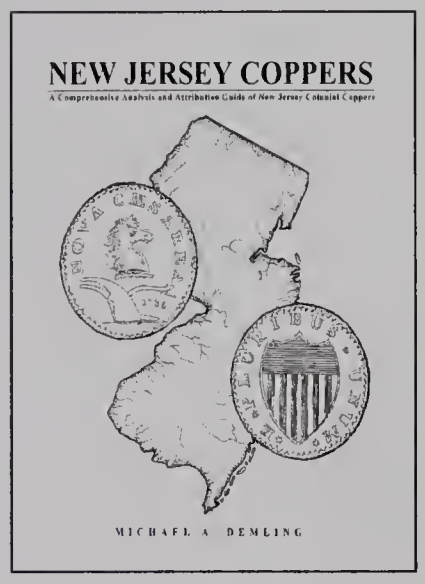
A New Publication on New Jersey Coppers

Not since Dr. Maris published his work on the New Jersey Coppers in 1881 has there been a Comprehensive Analysis and Attribution Guide of the New Jersey Colonial Copper Coinage.



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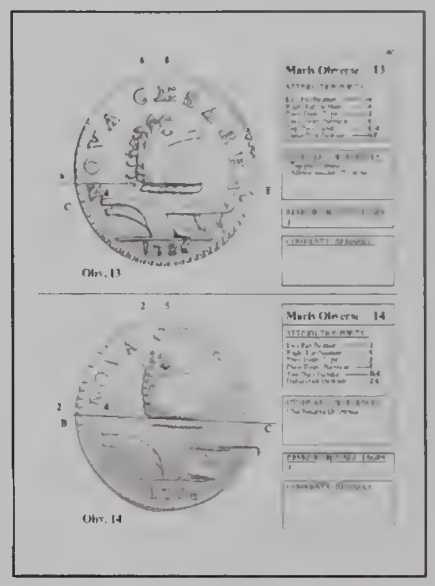

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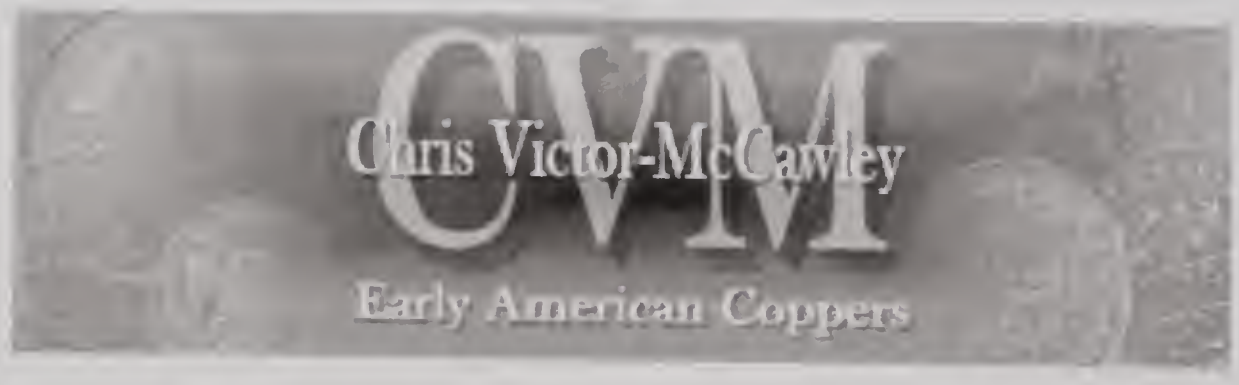

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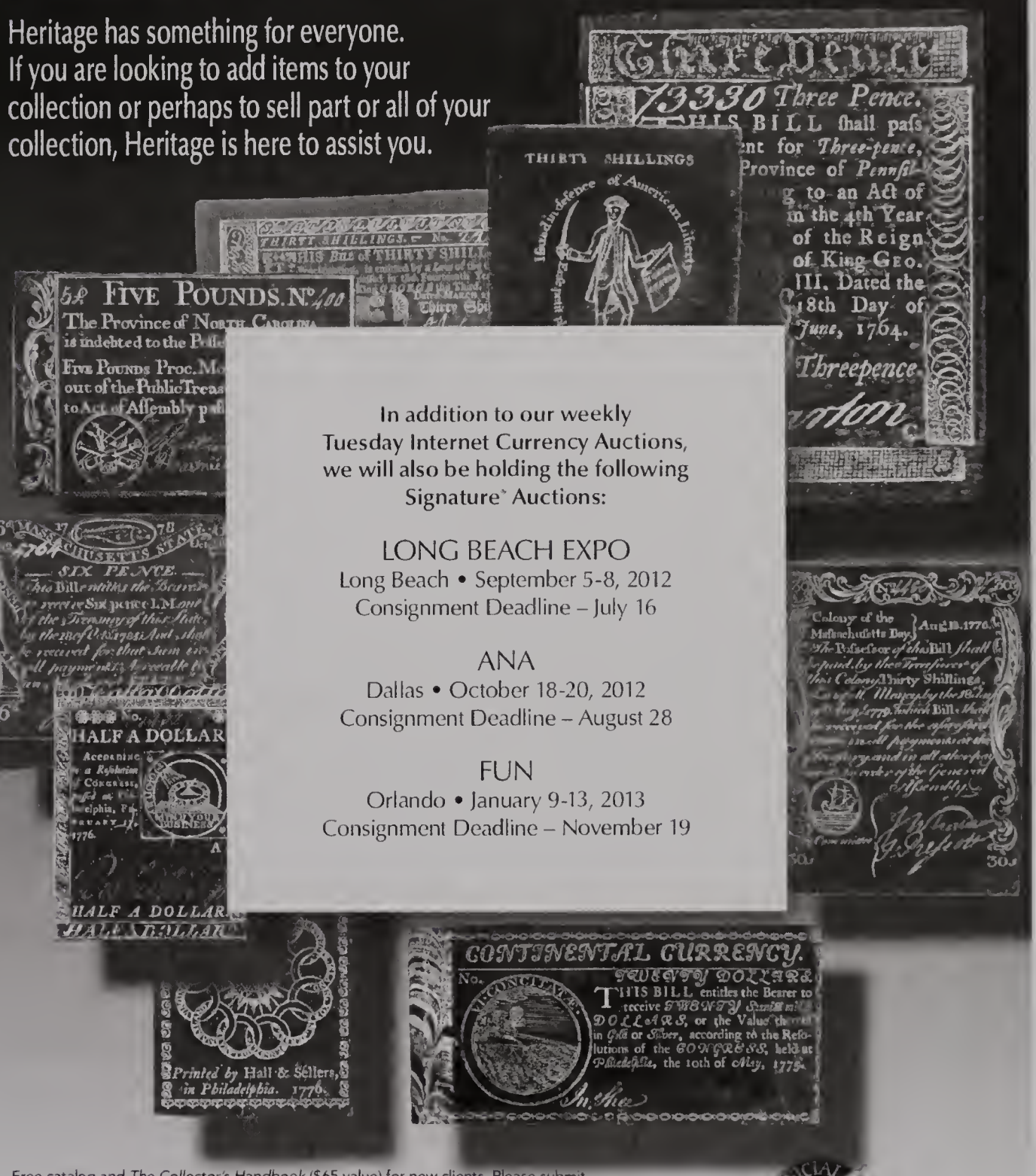
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SIX PENCE.
Three Pence.

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